Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-037
Monday
25 February 1991

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FBIS-LAT-91-037 *25 February 1991*

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Cuba

Foreign Minister Urges Halt to Gulf War

PA2402182491 Paris AFP in Spanish 1534 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, 24 Feb (AFP)—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who is in this capital to participate in a meeting of four Nonaligned Movement Coordination Bureau member nations, has stated that the participants at the meeting "must make efforts to stop the war quickly."

According to Radio Tehran, the Cuban minister said that "the unleashing of the ground offensive against Iraq is going to aggravate the situation in the region."

According to the Cuban representative, a "most disquieting aspect is that the military operations of the multinational forces have gone beyond the framework set by the UN resolutions."

The foreign ministers of India, Iran, Yugoslavia, and Cuba are to meet this afternoon to promote the peace efforts of the Nonaligned Movement. According to Radio Tehran, the four ministers are to go to Baghdad afterwards.

Alarcon Comments on Gulf War, U.S. Motives

U.S. Goal: Eliminate Regime

FL2202185091 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Excerpt of telephone interview with Ambassador to the United Nations Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada in New York, date not given—recorded]

[Text] I think that the initial U.S. rejection that responded so quickly in the negative first to the 15 February Iraqi proposal, then to the announcement from Moscow about the first meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, and now finally the plan the Soviets and Iraqis agreed upon yesterday in Moscow, I think that it leads one to think that those of us who from the start of this crisis in August said that it was not a matter of an interest in restoring Kuwaiti sovereignty were right.

If they reject a formula for obtaining what is supposed to be the UN mandate—an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait—then obviously they have other goals; that is, to destroy Iraq and to eliminate the Saddam Husayn government. Those are goals that have not been approved by the United Nations. They have not been defined by anyone. They are the exclusive, sole interests of the Americans. The one who has to respond now and determine the forms for putting the plan into practice, if we consider it acceptable, is the Security Council, not the United States.

Before the Council has met, before the plan has been examined, without taking into account the reaction and opinions that various countries including members of the Security Council have been expressing—which in general have all been positive, or very favorable, or recognize the tremendous step forward that has been taken with the meetings in Moscow—without taking that into account at all, the United States is now saying that it rejects the plan. As it says in the NEW YORK TIMES this morning, remember that the United States and the UK have veto power, so any decision by the Council would have to have their approval.

I think that all this clearly indicates that they have a goal, which is war, and war with purposes that have never had anything to do with the independence of Kuwait, but rather have other goals, which are American hegemony in the region and the elimination of the revolutionary Iraqi regime.

U.S. Ultimatum Viewed

FL2302024691 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 91

["Exclusive" statement by Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, ambassador to the United Nations—place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The ultimatum issued today by President Bush is not only an ultimatum to Iraq but also an ultimatum to the UN Security Council. I would add that it is an ultimatum to the entire international community, because the proposal drafted by President Gorbachev, which had been accepted by Iraq, was encouraging. But the United States issued a counterproposal that obviously seeks to undermine and obstruct the Soviet proposal, which had already been accepted by Iraq.

Now, the United States comes up with another strict deadline. That is similar to Resolution 678, which also established a deadline of 15 January for the start of hostilities [passage indistinct]. A ground attack may start as of midday tomorrow, New York and Havana time, unless Iraq accepts a series of proposals, some of which are obviously completely unacceptable.

For example, not a single word is mentioned about a cessation of hostilities. That is utterly absurd. Never in the history of the world have troops proceeded to withdraw from anywhere without previous arrangements, agreements, or understandings allowing for a withdrawal under safe conditions. Safe conditions are offered for those who withdraw, but also for the international community which is entitled to observe such a procedure.

There is a very significant fact in all of this. While the Soviet proposal accepted by Iraq assigns the United Nations the duty to verify the withdrawal of Iraqi troops, which will grant it credibility and will guarantee it, the U.S. proposal does not grant the United Nations any role in the troop withdrawal.

But of course it would be physically impossible for the United Nations to transfer any personnel to the theater of operations in the Gulf to observe a troop withdrawal by midday tomorrow or in three days. It is absolutely indispensable to put an end to hostilities to be able to guarantee the monitoring of a troop withdrawal by international observers.

Another absurd demand made is the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from all areas along the Saudi border. Everyone knows that on the other side, the United States has concentrated 500,000 men armed with the most sophisticated U.S. war material. That, therefore, constitutes a threat to Iraq's security and integrity.

The impact that the U.S. proposal has had helps us to judge its true objective: Since the U.S. proposal was issued, the UN Security Council has been completely stagnated. Perhaps our comrades can hear the noise in the background because I am at the delegates' room, which is filled with delegates and journalists. All of us are waiting to see what happens.

But the UN Security Council is again stagnated, because this is a paradox. Just when the world saw a ray of hope appear, when Iraq and the USSR achieved an agreement that may have led to an immediate solution to the problem and achieve the objective unanimously established by the United Nations—to restore [words indistinct] sovereignty through the complete Iraqi troop withdrawal [words indistinct]. It is possible if [word indistinct] the United States, with a proposal that obviously seeks to impede the implementation of this agreement.

'Bush Administration War' Decried

PA2402154291 Havana International Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, has commented on the Persian Gulf war in front of this important world organization:

[Begin Alarcon recording] Tonight has been a historic night for the United Nations. Its true role in this war, which the Bush administration and some of its allies are conducting against Iraq, has been revealed. Up to now, the U.S. Government had appeared before the eyes of the world as relying on the support of the international community, particularly the United Nations and the Security Council, for this war. Up to a few minutes ago, however, the United Nations had considered the possibility of a peace plan based on Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 660 to pull out of Kuwait completely. That was the United Nations's objective. The United Nations had authorized the war, although it was unnecessary. The fact that the attacks have escalated, that the war has entered a new stage, which implies its escalation in the form of a ground offensive, after Iraq had agreed to comply with the UN objective, is the best proof that the United States had other goals in mind, to destroy Iraq and eliminate its current government.

In addition, insult has been added to injury. The United States has cruelly mocked the Security Council. We spent today's entire session discussing the Soviet Union's plan, listening to U.S. and British suggestions to come up with a plan that could be accepted by all. All the time, however, the U.S. forces were preparing the military offensive and even launching it. At 2200, President Bush confirmed publicly that the war's new stage had started. Now we can only watch the development of this war, which has nothing to do with the United Nations, a war which is only of the United States; to be more precise, the Bush administration war. In this country not everyone will feel very happy when the U.S. casualties increase with this ground war—an unnecessary, cruel, arbitrary, and unfair war, whose only aim it is to protect U.S. interests in the region. [end recording] [passage omitted]

UN Should Close, Preserve Image

PA2402141091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0435 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] New York, 23 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, today requested the suspension of the UN Security Council's informal consultations "to preserve the image that this organization still commands some respect."

After the Security Council suspended its session for an indefinite time, Alarcon told the press that the United Nations "should close up for some months, and the delegates should take a vacation. The farce we have played in the past few months cannot be maintained any longer."

He also said that the money the organization is spending in paying overtime to its employees, who worked Saturday night, "should be saved and devoted to projects and people who need it more."

Alarcon said that the beginning of the Allies' large-scale surface offensive against Iraq "proves that their only objective is to destroy Iraq using the liberation of Kuwait as a pretext."

He added that the escalation of violence in the Gulf also indicates "the Allies' disregard for the United Nations, its Security Council, and the secretary general, who made an appeal today to keep making diplomatic efforts."

In the morning, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar reminded the Security Council members his desire to keep trying to mediate an effort that could lead to peace in the Persian Gulf.

In addition, David Hannay, British ambassador to the United Nations, said that the Security Council's next step will be to try to have all resolutions complied with, "particularly Resolution 678, which authorizes the use of military forces against Iraq." Hannay also said that this is "more than a sad day for the United Nations, i is a sad day for Iraq."

Havana: War Dictated by Washington's Arrogance

FL2402234591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2207 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Foreign Ministry statement on Persian Gulf War issued 24 February in Havana—read by announcer]

[Text] After 37 days of fierce bombardment of Iraq and Kuwait, the group of forces made up of the war machinery of the United States and its allies has begun the ground offensive operation on Kuwaiti territory and part of Iraqi territory. Thus, the Persian Gulf crisis has entered an even more tragic and bloody phase of incalculable consequences for the future of that region and international security.

Since 2 August, in addition to condemning the unacceptable invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq and demanding the restitution of that emirate's sovereignty, the Cuban Government warned of the danger that the United States would take advantage of the invasion of Kuwait to obtain its ambition of destroying Iraq and strengthening its hegemonic presence in that strategic region. To the world's astonishment, after the Security Council granted the United States a letter of marque to unleash a war of destruction in accordance with its geopolitical interests, the course of events since 16 January has demonstrated conclusively the veracity and accuracy of Cuba's position and warning.

Far from fulfilling the reasons for its existence—the most important of these being to preserve peace—through Resolution 678 the council facilitated the thwarting of negotiations in favor of a just and peaceful solution. With its zeal absent in the face of Israeli expansionism and the Yankee invasions of Grenada and Panama, it gave the United States and its allies the opportunity to turn Iraq and Kuwait into a test range for its most modern weapons, whose use has already caused thousands of victims among the civilian population and damages of astronomical proportions to the two countries' economic and social infrastructure.

When Iraq announced that it had accepted the peace plan proposed by the Soviet Union and that it was willing to withdraw from Kuwait immediately and unconditionally in compliance with Resolution 660, the possibility of the crisis entering a phase of complete resolution arose. The reality we are experiencing today has been dictated by Washington's arrogance. It is the United States that is trying to impose its conditions. It is the United States that is directing the war and that will decide when and how it will end. It is the United States that scorns any peace initiative. It is the United States that once more has taken upon itself the right to dictate the rules to the international community.

We are witnessing right now the first and bloody example of a unipolar world that the United States dreams of creating, the new order President Bush has announced as the future awaiting humanity. The country that proclaims it has been called on by Providence to establish and rule over that order obviously has the might to do so, but it completely lacks the moral right and the historical authority.

Its history of expansion, intervention, and exploitation requires several volumes to be recorded. It is the same country that without scruples used atomic weapons against an already defeated Japan. It is the same country that sowed death in Vietnam, that subjected Nicaragua to a cruel, dirty war, and that continues to occupy Panama.

What is happening today in the Gulf is the living example of what could occur tomorrow anywhere in the world whenever the United States takes upon itself the role of supreme arbiter of peace and justice and decides how and where to act and what is just or unjust—with the most absolute impunity.

Cuba demands that the United Nations and especially the Security Council play the role they were created for and truly contribute to preserving peace. An end must be put to the war and the deaths of the thousands of men, women, and children who would be sacrificed with no other justification than the U.S. hegemonic interests.

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S.-Korean Maneuvers

FL2202185091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry [Minrex] issued a statement today condemning the U.S.-South Korean joint maneuvers on the Asian peninsula. The U.S. Government and its South Korean allies began conducting the Team Spirit-91 joint military maneuvers on Korean soil with the deployment of large military resources, including nuclear weapons. The document says that the war exercises once again are an obstacle for the Korean people's reunification wishes and create a new area of tension.

The note issued by Minrex reiterates Cuba's unyielding solidarity with the DPRK and joins in the condemnation of the international community.

Iraq 'Internationalists' Morale Said High

FL2202152091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The 176 internationalist doctors, nurses, and technicians who are serving in Iraq continue their medical work in hospitals in that country. In spite of the tensions and hardships imposed by the war, they are keeping up a good state of mind and very high morale. It has also been reported from Baghdad that no one has been injured among our cooperative workers, who receive official support from the Iraqi Ministry of Public Health and the Cuban Embassy.

It has also been reported that six of the internationalists have returned to Havana from Iraq. Three of them are

nurses, one is an orthopedist, and two are physiotherapists. Four returned suffering from illnesses that had begun before the outbreak of the war and two because their contracts had ended.

* Cabrisas on Trade Agreements With USSR

91CA0064A Havana GRANMA in Spanish
21 Jan 91 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas by Susana Lee; date and place not given]

[Text] Toward the end of December, five agreements were signed in Moscow that will govern trade and cooperation relations with the Soviet Union this year. Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas headed the Cuban delegation during the negotiations, which lasted ten days prior to the signing and sealing that culminated in the numerous talks that have taken place between authorities and officials of both countries since the 20th intergovernmental session in May of last year.

Since the news releases had been very concise and had raised questions and the expectations of many persons, GRANMA addressed a request to the minister to clarify them in order to satisfy our journalistic interest and that of other sectors that were awaiting further news regarding the results.

Several key topics dominated the interview: the signing of these agreements before the end of 1990 "as expressions," Cabrisas pointed out, "of the political intent and decision on the part of the Soviet Government and authorities to maintain relations with Cuba" despite those outside of and even within the USSR who were predicting the contrary; the significance of the documents that were signed, within the context of their effective date of 1 January of this year, and of the process of changes that are taking place in that country; the main differences between these agreements and the similar ones of preceding years, viewed from the standpoint of current circumstances; the immediate prospects with regard to the implementation of what has been agreed upon; the guaranteeing of supplies; the opening of trade in new product sectors; and the basis for the continuation of economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

Ricardo Cabrisas talked with us on all of these topics.

Complex Talks in a Positive, Constructive Climate of Understanding

[Lee] Could you, first of all, tell us about the talks held in Moscow, the working climate, the position of the Soviet authorities, and the principal topics that had to be addressed in order to arrive at a signing of the agreements?

[Cabrisas] Upon receiving confirmation by the Soviet authorities on 15 December that the talks initiated in May of last year could proceed, we representatives of the group that had been created for this purpose and that included all the organizations and agencies involved in bilateral relations in a more general way, left for Moscow and began negotiating with the similar Soviet team headed by comrade Konstantin F. Katushev, the USSR's minister of foreign economic relations.

For both sides, the talks presented complexities. First, because we had to continue discussing and negotiating all aspects stemming from the changes taking place in the USSR's economic system as it moves toward the market economy it has set as its objective. The new mechanisms differ from those that have governed our bilateral relations to date.

[Lee] What were and are the practical effects of those changes?

[Cabrisas] There are several. Unlike previous agreements, the new ones are not valid for five years. They are transitional, for 1991, after which they become subject to possible renewal for a longer period.

A second aspect has to do with the prices of commodities. The Soviet negotiators kept insisting that these prices should be brought into line with those on the world market. We, on the other hand, strove to get them to understand that in the case of some products, such as sugar, the so-called world market price does not reflect the true conditions under which this commodity is traded, in that a very substantial portion of sugar exports is covered by special treaties, like the one that governs the European Economic Community's agreements with the African, Pacific, and Caribbean countries, and the ones that govern relations between the United States and its traditional suppliers. Added to these are historical reasons present in our own bilateral relations. We argued that for all these reasons we should avoid degrading our existing terms of trade. We applied a similar rationale to other export products.

Third, we sought to avoid having the agreements require a fresh transfer of hard currency with each commercial transaction, and to institute, instead, a payment mechanism that would permit the settling of accounts without necessitating a physical transfer of funds. A mechanism of this type already exists in trade relations among other market-economy countries. A fourth aspect is the definition of the money of account, which it was agreed will be the United States dollar.

All of these aspects were covered in the protocols that were signed and termed "transitional pending the new structure of mutual economic and trade relations."

The discussions themselves were not highly complex, because most of these aspects had already been addressed here, during the visit of the delegation headed by Katushev. I would say that the real complexities will be introduced at the point of stipulating the manner in which all of this is to be implemented, as this will mean spelling out exactly how trade is to be conducted between

the institutions there and here, using new and untried mechanisms, while striving to improve the efficiency of the operation.

As for the atmosphere in which the talks unfolded, I must say that it was very constructive and characterized by mutual understanding. We feel that a major role in this respect was played by the visits to Cuba during 1990 on the part of various high-level USSR officials, who were thus able to appreciate the progress we are making in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and tourism, and the potential for further economic collaboration between our two countries.

In another respect, the agreements include elements directly connected with the conduct of trade, as, for example, transportation, which must be viewed from two angles: 1) Under the new agreement, Cuba will absorb a part of the transport tonnage involved, essentially the part pertaining to dry cereals, and 50 percent of that pertaining to the fertilizers received from the USSR. This is supplemented by the stipulation that Cuba will send sugar to the USSR in the ships that go there to pick up the fertilizers; and 2) some internal procedures within the Soviet Union, relative to the payment of freightage among the Soviet organizations, will need to be resolved in order to make the implementation of this agreement workable.

During our stay in Moscow, we held talks with comrade Leonid Abalkin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, who recalls with great pleasure his visit to Cuba and his meetings with the Commander in Chief; with comrade V. M. Volmer, minister of the maritime fleet, with whom we discussed details regarding transportation; with the minister of the defense industry, comrade B. M. Belousov, who is concerned with the production of heavy machinery for high-priority programs in the agricultural and sugar agro-industrial sectors, and who confirmed to us the figures for this year, as was done for 1990; with comrade S. V. Kolpakov, minister of nonferrous metallurgy, who helped bring about a solution to the question of supplies of raw materials for the production of nickel; and with comrade S. V. Denisov, minister of health, a very important meeting in view of the jump our exports will be taking in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology products, and medical equipment. These exports will be producing more than $800 million versus a modest starting figure in 1990, the year in which the required procedures and formalities relative to these exports, a new development and a significant factor in our trade relations, were worked out.

We also met with comrade Durasov, first deputy chairman of GOSPLAN [state planning commission], with whom we held discussions on the listings of products to be included in the trade agreement for 1991. This was a determining factor in what was achieved. Initially, the idea was to define those listings and sign the trade agreement during the present month of January, given the situation in which the USSR finds itself at this time—meeting of the 4th Congress of Deputies, restructuring of the government, etc.—which would have meant prolonging the uncertainty regarding the supplies available to us for this year.

We managed, however, to hold the talks and define a substantial number of products the supply of which will be guaranteed by the state, as stipulated in the trade and economic cooperation agreement.

[Lee] Viewed in light of the negotiations in previous years, were these marked by the current situation in the USSR, or did other factors also complicate them?

[Cabrisas] As a whole, they were actually more complex for the reasons I have mentioned. Negotiating within the terms of reference of intermediate-term and long-term agreements that have always existed with the USSR is one thing. But having to negotiate a revision of all previous mechanisms in order to bring them into line with new systems that are being introduced is quite another. Let me be frank, however: In the atmosphere, the form, and the treatment of these issues, and the time devoted to resolving them, I sensed a collective dedication, a joint quest for solutions.

Complexities and Comparisons

[Lee] We have talked of the complexities encountered in reaching these agreements. I would like to know about those which lie ahead on the road to implementation of the agreements. Could you cite a few examples and draw a few comparisons with their counterparts in previous years?

[Cabrisas] I would say that the success attained by both parties lies in our having been able to reach agreements at a time of a restructuring of the government there, on the one hand, and, on the other, a time when, as you know, the USSR had not yet been able to enact either its budget or its own economic plan for the year 1991. Its domestic economy is still in a state of flux, although some of the indicators of the past are being maintained until they can be replaced by new ones.

From a practical standpoint, a factor that can affect to some extent the agreed upon delivery schedules, depending on the product involved, is that now—and this is a fundamental difference—the process of contracting for deliveries of all the products on which agreement has been reached differs from past years. Previously, contracting for deliveries simply proceeded during the year, based on a set of guidelines, and the signing of the protocols did not take place until some 80 percent or more of the products involved had already been contracted for and delivered. Under the present agreements, which have already been signed, nothing has been contracted for as yet. The point of departure for the contracting process, for both parties, is the signing of the agreement. We might term it a ...somewhat belated ...point of departure.

This will undoubtedly lead—anticipatory though this view is, of course—to discussions. Some deliveries will be delayed more than others, in that now, with the introduction of the dollar as the money of account, and world market prices as a basis, the market prices of the products to be exchanged must first be established. For some products, there are, in this regard, commodity exchange prices; and for others there are prices that can be used as a clear reference. But there are still other products—and not just a few—that are produced especially for us.

And so, there will be complications, no doubt about it, and difficult discussions, because insofar as price is concerned, artificial conversions cannot be made at the time it is determined, and efficiency will have to be factored in, which heretofore was not necessary when contracting for a piece of equipment or a product. To say nothing of the fact that in some cases, such as aviation, for example, we have no alternative sources because of the fleet we already have.

Also working against us, moreover, will be the time factor, in that we will now be contracting for this very year's deliveries, and this is bound to translate into problems during the first quarter, and in some cases throughout the first quarter, considering the broad range of products involved.

This will require, indeed compel, extensive expenditure of effort on the part of our foreign trade organizations, for which we have already been preparing, not only because of the changes in the mechanisms per se, but also because, whereas we formerly conducted our trade with 62 Soviet institutions, we will now have to deal with some 25,000 Soviet organizations that have already been authorized to engage in foreign trade. And what we were formerly able to get done through a single firm having centralizing authority, we will now have to do by dealing directly with the suppliers, the producers.

[Lee] This means, I take it, that the contracting process that begins now is decentralized.

[Cabrisas] Exactly, except in those cases where the producer, because he is just beginning to organize, and is therefore not sufficiently experienced in the conduct of foreign trade, decides to market his products through a firm specializing in foreign trade, or in cases where, by decision of the government, the product must be so marketed.

[Lee] Does this mean, for example, that one might have to contract with, say, three different suppliers for just one product?

[Cabrisas] That could be.

[Lee] Does a similar situation exist with respect to contracting for the export of our products?

[Cabrisas] In the case of staples, no. That is still done by and through a single centralizing agency. For example, only one organization buys our sugar, and it does so as a centralizing agency; but internally, it negotiates and contracts with the suppliers of the commodities it must send us in exchange. Also, what is happening now is that there are republics, enterprises, and institutions that are asking us to supply them with sugar, citrus fruits and other products, directly and independently of what has already been provided for under state agreements.

Provision for Staple Items

[Lee] I would like to refer to the staple items provided for in the agreement. Are there any substantial changes, and if so, to what extent? And, among other things, what guarantees are provided?

[Cabrisas] First, it must be mentioned that in reference to Soviet exports, there are no changes in the structure: fuels, foodstuffs, raw materials, equipment, spare parts,... now, what does change are the levels—decreases in the level of some of these items.

This too is essential. For example, absolute priority is given to fuels, foodstuffs, basic raw materials, and spare parts in connection with the country's principal development programs. It is a qualitative change, not only one of structure [as published].

As announced in August, because of the need to continue our energy conservation program, no provision has been made for durable consumer goods—television sets, refrigerators, etc.—except insofar as replacement parts are concerned which are needed to maintain those presently in existence.

There is also a substantial decrease—from some 1,200-1,300 million rubles down to 400-500 million rubles—with respect to equipment for high-priority programs. There is no change, however, insofar as replacement parts are concerned needed to maintain and improve the efficiency of the equipment we already have.

From our end, we are maintaining our traditional exports: sugar, nickel, citrus fruits, tobacco, some quantities of candies, and a list of products that the USSR has requested and that will be finalized next month during a planning committee meeting that is to be held here, for the specific purpose of completing an agreement on some of these items requested by the USSR, on which we were unable to undertake commitment for lack of confirmation from the producers.

As I mentioned to you before, the structure at our end changes considerably [as published], if one takes into account this year's forthcoming gains as a result of our newly incorporated exports of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology products, and medical equipment.

[Lee] Do the agreements contain any listing of items under the category of state orders? If so, does this designation provide a total guaranty? What percentage of what we will import falls under this category?

[Cabrisas] While I am not able to give you an exact percentage, I can tell you that the products listed as state

orders are in the majority and are, of course, the indispensable ones. The products categorized by the Soviet government as guaranteed by the state are, for example: fuels, foodstuffs, sulfur, cast iron, ferroalloys, tinplate for the food industry, caustic soda, resins, fertilizers, lumber, and equipment for high-priority programs. This is a very positive and important provision. Of course, it does not constitute a one-hundred-percent guaranty that difficulties will not arise in supplying these items, especially if we take into account that contracting now has to be handled at the retail level with the suppliers, and entirely within the context of the present situation in the USSR. But it is another expression of the will and determination on the part of the Soviet authorities to maximize to whatever level possible the guaranteeing of products that are of vital importance to Cuba.

[Lee] Could you be a little more specific, giving some examples, as to whether the import-export levels on both sides increase or decrease?

[Cabrisas] Import-export levels of foodstuffs and basic raw materials are practically the same as in 1990, except in some cases in which requested levels were reduced to gear them to the special situation of this particular period of time and to the purchasing power generated by our exports.

As for the reciprocal exchanges of fuel and sugar, the agreed upon levels are based approximately on actual 1990 billings. Our exports of citrus fruit products will increase; and those of nickel-iron products will decrease, since the Ernesto Guevara plant at Punta Gorda has not resumed production.

In other words, the results we have achieved, while mutually beneficial under present conditions, must not be taken as implying that all has been accomplished. Much has yet to be worked out, and to be done, and the actual implementation of these commitments will be the ultimate test of what has actually been accomplished. Meanwhile, we cannot let up in our all-out organized and productive effort to do more with less, and to prepare ourselves to confront new difficulties that could arise from the international political and economic situation and from possible non-fulfillment of supply commitments from the outside, notwithstanding the Soviet Union's will and determination to comply with them.

[Lee] Were any specific prices set?

[Cabrisas] At the moment, only for sugar, maintaining a preferential price, lower than that of the past five years, but higher than the world market price. But the rest are to be adjusted eventually on the basis of the actual world market price performance, fuels included, since it is not possible to take present prices as a basis. It will be necessary to structure prices on the basis of approximations, and, at the end of the year, arrive at a final balancing adjustment.

[Lee] Is this the reason why volumes of trade were not quantified as in previous years?

[Cabrisas] Exactly. However, my opinion is that, whether our reciprocal trade volumes are evaluated at world market prices, or in the old transferable-ruble way, there will be a decrease, in terms of overall values, for two reasons: the reduction in the sugar price, and our lowered import levels of non-essential products during this special period.

Other Elements of Interest

[Lee] Are there other elements that you deem positive in these agreements signed in Moscow?

[Cabrisas] I can point out two more that confirm the good will we have been talking about: the Soviets' willingness to grant us credit covering the current accounts deficit that this year's trade will create; and the decision on the part of the Soviets to proceed with the loading of needed January supplies, already in progress. This occurred despite the fact that we had not yet concluded the negotiation of the required trade agreements for the year, covering some products of vital importance, such as fuels and sugar. Had they not done so, we would now be facing an extremely difficult situation.

[Lee] You have not talked about the request for specific medical and stomatological services in which we know that firms and even some republics are interested. Were these categories not covered in the agreements?

[Cabrisas] No. The agreements cover categories of state interest. But now we are authorized to start working in that direction, in the direction of the bilateral transactions you are referring to. Certainly, the Ministry of Health has been moving forward in this respect. There is great interest in Cuban medical and stomatological services, and there are proposals that will be taken up case by case.

[Lee] When we talked of products, I forgot to ask you about cereals. We had difficulties in receiving them in 1990.

[Cabrisas] We had trouble in the beginning and at the end of that year, because of problems the Soviets had in contracting with third countries for the last quarter of 1990, owing to their economic situation.

If here in Cuba we were not more seriously affected by this situation, it is because emergency measures were instituted by our government in each instance, including the decision to buy some quantities on our own. I believe the importance of these products warrants our paying special attention to the progress of deliveries, and taking the necessary action at all times.

[Lee] One last question: Are the objectives of economic cooperation, in terms of equipment and advisory assistance, being maintained?

[Cabrisas] The Soviets have planned not to set new objectives but will continue to pursue all of those now under development, and for these they have approved a

credit that covers all current programs in the following sectors: Energy production, including the first and second reactors for the CEN [Nuclear Power Plant] at Juragua; prospecting, extraction, and refining of petroleum; the continuation of the Antillana project; ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy; petrochemicals; chemicals; the manufacture of machinery; light industry; electronics; transportation; communications; sugar industry; agriculture; food industry; geology, pharmaceuticals... in sum, all existing programs have been maintained.

* Role of Media, Religious Attitudes Discussed

91CA0063A Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish
7 Jan 91 pp 38-47

[Article by Enrique Maza]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

Journalism

"Until 1 October we had a broad spectrum in the press," says Lazaro Barredo, vice president of the Union of Cuban Journalists, in his office on 23rd Street. "Four national daily newspapers, which together published about 1.5 million issues; 15 provincial newspapers, also dailies, which still publish a half-million issues throughout the country; 57 radio stations; two national television channels; and eight television centers (territorial stations). We had more than 700 periodicals published at various intervals. These are general magazines, such as BOHEMIA. There are about 70 cultural magazines: youth and student magazines; scientific magazines; social communication magazines; eight religious magazines. Seven hundred publications that accounted for some 80 million issues each year.

"Early this year," he recalls, "in anticipation of a paper shortage, we had to impose a reduction of publications. The problem of relations with the Soviet Union is not for political reasons, but rather is due to the internal situation in the USSR. For example, in the case of paper, there is an anarchy in production that has even affected many Soviet publications. We began to see the problem, not only in supply quantities, but also in the type of paper, in the rolls.

"In September we conducted an analysis. The amount of paper available was enough for all of these publications to be issued until 4 or 5 January, that was all. And we made the decision," he lowers his voice and speaks deliberately, "according to my best judgment, to narrow the spectrum of the press so that we could guarantee the publication of a group of periodicals. Primarily newspapers. We did not make that decision on the basis of what might happen, because we are still in a state of uncertainty in our trade relations with the USSR for this year, 1991. As far as paper is concerned, we do not know whether we will have to buy it with convertible currency at world market prices. The country would have had to invest more than $30 million to maintain its publications.

"It was decided, then, to cut back and adjust to the availability of paper and the budget. We had to guarantee the publication of a national daily, as its paper supply is assured through 31 December 1991; to maintain two publications as weekend newspapers, one Saturday and one Sunday; to maintain BOHEMIA, although with a reduced number of pages; and to guarantee the publication of the provincial dailies. Thus, GRANMA was left as a national daily published Monday through Friday. TRABAJADORES and JUVENTUD REBELDE, which had been national dailies, became weekend newspapers, the former published on Saturday and the latter on Sunday. GRANMA comes out on Saturday only in Havana.

"We carried that same analysis through to paper production," continues Barredo. "We have made major investments in the development of plants, and we produce various types of paper. But because we no longer have the raw materials, we had to halt production. In addition, this industry consumes a lot of fuel, which we also no longer have. And we decided to bring out just a small number of magazines, beginning in January. These are the ones whose publication we can guarantee throughout the year. The 700 were reduced to 60 or 80: magazines for children, youths and adolescents, scientific journals, women's magazines, cultural ones, religious ones, and a few social communication publications.

"That," he acknowledges, "forced us to relocate journalistic personnel as well, so that no journalist would lose his job. The provincial newspapers and the radio stations were reinforced. The radio programs were reanalyzed to give more weight to information and opinion.

"If the supplies of paper and other raw materials do not arrive, as they have been until now, we will have to make even further reductions, especially in the daily press. And this causes problems for us, because GRANMA, as the official organ of the Party, is much more rigid and less controversial than TRABAJADORES and JUVENTUD REBELDE, which were already opening up—with an official and revolutionary character, if you will—a wider berth for controversy and opinion. Now that has been restricted because there are fewer journalists. But that is our situation."

Lazaro Barredo analyzes the circumstances: "We are not a normal country. If we lived in normalcy, there would be no problem. But we are an abnormal country that is being subjected to an iron blockade. Cuba is the only country in the world where we cannot report on the business that is being conducted. It wants to transform, it wants to form mixed enterprises with companies and with capitalist partners, it wants an opening. But it must keep all of its business transactions secret, not because it wants to, but because large companies and big businessmen make it a condition that negotiations be conducted in secret, to prevent the United States from exerting pressure on them. We must exercise voluntary discretion to protect the country. We cannot talk about the tremendous investments we are making in the

tourism sector, because the United States is investigating those with whom we invest. Nor can we talk about the development of the pharmaceutical industry, or about biotechnology, or about genetic engineering, or about investments in these fields, or about the medical equipment industry, or about the mechanical industry, because the United States closes off our exits.

"The most obvious example is the Spanish consortium Tabacalera, which was negotiating a tourism project with us. Tabacalera has a historical commitment to us; it had a monopoly on Cuban trade during the colonial years, and it has always had good relations with Cuba. And it was conducting business with us. The United States obtained the information and gave it to the Spanish opposition. A scandal broke out in Spain during the first half of this year (1990). A lot of pressure was brought to bear, and the pact was thwarted. The United States is on the lookout for any economic relations we might have. That is a fact.

"Another fact is the bacteriological war the United States has waged against Cuba. But no one talks about that, nor does anyone want to talk about it and what it has done to Cuba. And it has been proven, demonstrated by facts, with recordings, with film of all the CIA agents that were infiltrated. It was possible to record and film American diplomats who were engaged in intelligence activities here. But the major press in the United States ignores it. It does not want to hear that the United States introduced swine fever here to destroy our pig population, which we had to sacrifice and burn. We could not develop it for several years because we had to take sanitary measures to guard against plant disease. Then it introduced sugarcane rust, which destroyed our most productive plantations. And there was no way to stop it. It destroyed all our "galera" harvests for several years. Then it spread dengue, the three dengue viruses, which cost us the lives of hundreds of children. And then hemorrhagic conjunctivitis. All of that is proven: how it has come in and they have introduced it in our country. But no one talks about that.

"What is the role of the press in all of this? That is something that is about to be discovered. There is no recipe for these circumstances. But we cannot shy away from opening up the broadest space for information, even with these contradictions. Nor can we shy away from criticism or the exchange of opinions in society. An ongoing debate on the current problems of national life. We were already doing this, and we got to the point of discussing everything, even the need for constitutional reforms and desirable changes in the legislature, such as formalism and rigid positions; and the country's labor and wage problems, and the problems of youth, those of the international tourism plan, of the small landowners, and of self-employment.

"It is easier to open up on the radio. In the written press it is more complicated, because we are left with just one daily newspaper. JUVENTUD REBELDE and TRABAJADORES have a germ of this informational liberalization. It has not been done in GRANMA because everyone identifies it with the positions of the party leadership. It is projected both domestically and abroad as the official position of the country. And it has necessarily become an ideological organ, especially under these circumstances when people need guidance. It is just that people are guided with information. That is how the press is tempted to become an instrument of ideological conversion and persuasion. That is what people associate with GRANMA. In the other media, more room is being opened up for information, criticism, and controversy. The press, the radio, and even television cannot be judged in comparison with GRANMA."

"In my conversations with journalists throughout my tour of Cuba," I say to Barredo, "I have noticed this tendency. 'Journalism should serve ideology,' Adolfo Silva told me in Camaguey; 'it should be in favor of, not against, the revolution,' I was told in Trinidad; 'it should try to convince, it has the task of teaching others, it has a pedagogical mission, it has a duty to evaluate,' I was told in Cardenas. In fact, I get the impression that journalists are regarded as the ideological dictionary of the Cuban Revolution ...."

Lazaro Barredo smiles. He responds, calmly: "We think that the press is a public service, not a favor that is done for the population. Its first condiment is information, then opinion on events in the news. But any press serves a given interest. That is the great contradiction. In other countries the interests are diverse. Here the interest is monolithic. But the fact that it is monolithic does not mean that it is necessarily unanimous. This is the great problem we have begun to face."

And he elaborates: "More than 85 percent of the population, when the very leadership of the revolution called for public discussion, expressed support for the country's strategic objectives and consensus regarding the priorities the country has set for itself. But we cannot depart from formal unanimity. People endorse the ideology because they want to protect the country from aggressors. But this is one of the most acute problems: Not even the dreamiest of the dreamers could imagine what would happen if tomorrow the United States declared the end to the blockade, withdrew from the naval base it is occupying, ended its aggressions, and established diplomatic relations. It would be impossible to imagine the changes that would emerge.

"If today we have a single party system," Barredo goes on, "it is because the country has a need. It does not come from the Soviet Union or from Lenin, but from our own historical problems. When Lenin had not even dreamed of creating a party, Marti had already formed a single party to bring together all of the Cuban revolutionary movements, which were disparate and fragmented. He united them in a single party, convinced that this was the only way to confront the United States. That is the meaning of our national unity and our consensus,

with its three condiments: facing up to the United States, not abandoning national independence, and maintaining the policy of social justice. Only in this way will we be able to survive the blows dealt by the United States.

"This does not mean that everyone agrees with this policy. Not everyone does. There is a minority of people, a small percentage, who do not agree and who wish to leave the country. We have already given exit visas to nearly 30,000 citizens. They have Migration's permission to leave here. But no country has given them an entry visa. Not even the United States, which would like to create an internal problem for us. For our part, they have permission, if they can find someone to pay their way. We are not going to spend what little foreign exchange we have on that utilitarian thing.

"The more people say the country is closed, the more we are opening up in all fields. But we are not going to have an internal market economy, because then we would not be able to have a policy of social justice. Where supply, demand, and prices rule, it is impossible to have the policy of social justice that we want to pursue. We would have to do away with free public health, with free education, and with the country's social development.

We are left with the problem of what model of press we want. There is no model. The socialist press model was a failure. And we have paid the price for copying it. The Cuban revolution was born and developed in its first years along original paths. The press of those first years had the same freshness and originality. At the end of the 1960s we abandoned that, convinced that we were going to copy superior models. For example, in the first years there were no official organs. As soon as we got pigeonholed, we tied the hands of our press and strayed from our autochthonous program. Today we must decide what press model we want." [passage omitted]

The Dissidence Project

Oswaldo Jose Payas, a physics teacher and telecommunications engineer who is married to Ofelia Acevedo, has two small children, and is a practicing Catholic and Cuban dissident, does not agree with a lot of things. He has made specific proposals to the government of Fidel Castro, and as a result, he says, he has received threatening messages. He starts out by clarifying with a veiled reproach:

"At this time people, groups, nations, and government officials are looking at the country and discovering Cuba for the first time. But they always see it exclusively under the prism of a nation dependent on the Soviet Union [words illegible] that had confronted the power of the United States, with a population that was suffering."

Now that he has made this reproach, he changes his tone to make another clarification, this time an internal one: "It must be recognized, because it is true, that socialism in Cuba comes from a revolution that was authentic, although it was not socialist. And positions were taken and choices were made for Marxism, on the part of those in power, not the people. Many people confused their loyalty to the revolution and to the leaders with loyalty to the ideological choice."

Having made these clarifications, he speaks of the plan he presented to the government. This is his story:

"In 1989 we made the first call for a national dialogue. We repeated it last July, perfecting the forms. Now we have made a complete study of the Constitution and we have submitted a transition plan, so that the people will participate and be the ones to choose the paths, the pace, and the objective of the transition. We do not want more liberating forces or guiding parties. We are going to let the people themselves determine their fate. That is the essence of the proposition we have made to the government, which can lead the people to reconciliation and brotherly recovery.

"The process would have three stages. First, a referendum by the government to ask the people whether or not they want profound changes. We are not going to speculate anymore.

"Second, within that same referendum, we ask the government to convene a national dialogue, a round table, made up of representative groups, including the Communist Party and the exile community, which cannot be missing from any process in Cuba—it cannot control it, but it cannot be missing—because the exiles are part of our national problem.

"Finally, that dialogue would lead to a process to elect a new constituent assembly, which would be given a popular mandate to draw up a new constitution.

"This chimera can be made a reality. The conditions are: We do not want foreign intervention; we want to be reborn as a people in a new era."

"How did the government respond to this proposition?"

"So far I have not received any official response. They have been sending me messages through people in our group who have been arrested, somewhat threatening messages. But we are hopeful that the people at the highest levels of government will realize the need for this change."

"This implies that you know what the general public thinks. What does the general public think?"

"I cannot answer for what lies in the hearts of other people. Besides, I think that Fidel is a human being; I do not idolize him. I think that it has done Cuba a lot of harm to divert Cuba's problem toward a single person, especially when the analysis is done from the United States or Europe. People talk about Castro; they do not talk about the Cuban people. But there is a collective responsibility in the Cuban process. That is why we are calling for measures to facilitate this peaceful transition. I refuse to go along with the myths of those who idolize Fidel or the myths of those who demonize him. He is neither a god nor a demon. He has the potential to do

good or to do harm. We merely appeal to him in all dignity to allow the process whereby the people will be able to recover the sovereignty to which they are entitled.

"Furthermore, there is a tremendous and widespread desire for peaceful change. There is fear of a bloody catastrophe. There is disgust for so many lies and so much tension. There is a need for tranquillity and a desire to unleash the torrent of creativity we have. But there is also a great fear that we must overcome. We are all responsible for what has happened in Cuba."

In his office on 23rd Street, Lazaro Barredo, the journalist, comments: "This is the great problem we have begun to face, let us say for the past year, when the leaders of the revolution themselves submitted for public discussion an agenda of problems so that the population could say what it thought. There is a consensus of more than 85 percent.

"Everyone has freely expressed his points of view. More than half a million proposals have already been discussed. A minority feel that there should be a multi-party system and a market economy. They have expressed this publicly, it has been discussed, and a great public debate on all our problems has been carried out. We have many problems, but the main one is to promote this atmosphere of opinion, knowing that we have differences of opinion. There are dissident groups. I do not know how many of these human rights organizations there are. We are even willing to talk with the exile community, not to discuss Cuba's problems or politicis. That has been decided by those of us who remained here. But to discuss the problems of reunification and other matters. We must solve the problem of family reunification and exchange, among others.

"The party has been able to realize its mistakes and rectify them publicly, and it has convened the masses to help it do this. We want to go back to the beginning in all fields. Not to go back to the 1960s, but to the essence. We continue to work, to discuss, to analyze, to prepare for our emergence from this hole. The people will have fortitude.

"Everyone has basic food, free health care, a guaranteed education, housing, employment, wages, social security, political security. Everyone is guaranteed the necessities of life, and they do not want to lose that. They do not want to trade that for a VCR. What we have is worth much more than that, and people know it. Cubans are not going hungry. I agree that we have shortages, and that we have to work hard, but we do not go hungry. I invite you to go wherever you want. Tell me where there are starving, barefoot children, beggars, people sleeping in the streets, people living a miserable life. We work hard here, but no one goes to bed hungry.

"And this is the problem. When you want to pursue a policy of this type—and people want this policy by a margin of 85 percent—you cannot have full shop windows and shelves. What more could we ask? But under these circumstances, with the blockade, we aspire to satisfy our basic needs in life. And it is already here; it is not something that will take an eternity. It will come next year, when the problem of food production is solved."

Daniel Diaz Andrade, of Cienfuegos, secretary of the People's Assembly: "Many government officials do not belong to the party; 38 percent are not members. The elected delegates can be of any creed. The only condition is that they be recognized by the people. And the people can take away their recognition if the delegate does not respond to their interests. This has nothing to do with belonging to the party. They can be anyone, a professional, a worker, a believer, a Christian—peple who enjoy authority and prestige in their neighborhoods, from whence they are elected—and they can be reelected as many times as people want, or they can be removed. The population knows them."

Luis Estruch Rancano, vice president of Santiago de Cuba: "There are relations with Cuban exiles at the family level, with increased communication, visits, and new channels. The country is open to the well-intentioned Cuban, to anyone who comes here with good intentions. It has been harsh toward those who come here with bad intentions or who have tried to cause harmful effects, because they are enemies. There are quite a few open roads for these relations. There are youth brigades, such as the Jose Marti Brigade and others, that come every year to help the country. There are Cubans who live abroad and who belong to associations that promote friendship with Cuba. There is a whole gamut of ties. Seventy-five percent of the population of Santiago is under 40, and the revolution is 32 years old. What do young Cubans fight for, or why, if not for their society? They have no commitment to people outside their society."

Humberto Tirado (teacher at the Center for Cultural Studies in Havana): "There are a lot of facets to that. It depends on the people. It seems to me that there is no clear awareness of what people want. I do not think people have a clear idea of what the future holds, at the middle and popular level. What people are aware of, however, is that we do not want to lose what we have achieved, and the way we have achieved it: free health care, free education, widespread social justice.

"It is true that Cubans lack a real sensitivity for the individual, for the dignity of the individual, and that leads to irresponsible behavior toward people. But it is also true that we can be at ease here, assured that we will have medical care and education. We do have that, and we do not want to lose it. It is true that we have serious housing problems, but we are far from reaching the extremes of poverty that characterize the outskirts of Latin American cities. We are not going to be like the United States, nor do we want to be. We will never have their level of consumption, but we have other values that they do not have, such as the value of life, the value of truth, the value of beauty, the value of justice and equality—these things do not count for them. We, in our

poverty, do not turn people into objects the way they do. I do not think the people are willing to bargain away the benefits they have won."

The Church

Cienfuegos. Daniel Diaz Andrade recognizes that the Ecumenical Council of the Churches has a new position, one of support for the revolution, and that Christians want to participate in the tasks of the revolution and help develop socialism and the country. They even consider joining the party. "Until now, Christian or religious individuals had been excluded from joining the party."

In April 1990 "there was a meeting of the Ecumenical Council of Churches, in which Fidel participated. It was broadcast on television. There was an exchange of ideas on the problems of the mutual relationship." Now there is a discussion of "a call for the inclusion of Christians, giving them a chance to join the party. The subject is controversial, but it has aroused a lot of interest. The position of believers today is important. And I think we should make room for them, because we have to achieve the unification of all Cubans."

But "the Catholic Church does not have the same position, even though in recent years relations between the Church and the state have improved; but the Catholic Church has not come to the point of joining the revolution. It has not even come to the point of being in favor of the revolution, not to mention any consideration of its members joining the party. My assessment is that this is a problem with the hierarchy, not with Catholics, because many of them have been with the revolution, they have participated in the domestic tasks and in the international missions in Africa." Lazaro Barredo agrees. There is a contradiction between the Catholic hiarchy and its members "with regard to the projections of the Cuban revolution." It is different with the 51 evangelical denominations that belong to the Ecumenical Council of the Churches. One of the problems on the current Cuban agenda is that of the believers. "This is one of the most lively discussions we have had in our society in the last few months. We believe that discrimination against believers has been one of our greatest mistakes."

In addition, "the Catholic hierarchy is really doing the bidding of the United States. Internationally, we have good relations with the Vatican."

Barredo sees one profound aspect: "The Church here does not have a fundamental weight, unlike in all other Latin American nations. The Church in Cuba was not characterized by religious militancy; it was primarily a household worship that was distorted over time, because it was African culture that really took root in Cuba. The strongest religion in Cuba is syncretism. In fact, all the patron saints in Cuba have two names: St. Lazarus is Babalu Aye; St. Barbara is Chango; the Copper Virgin is Yemaya; the Virgin of Charity is Chun, and so on.

In the first years of the revolution, the Catholic Church assumed a counterrevolutionary attitude. It hoarded large quantities of weapons in the churches, it hid and fed the bands of opponents. That aroused repugnance in Cuban revolutionary society, because they always associated the Church with the people who were threatening them. Those who murdered teachers and peasants, who planted bombs in theaters, who highjacked airplanes and killed their pilots, were hidden in the churches by the hierarchy. The feeling of revulsion was natural. Many lay Catholics took the blame, because a certain mentality had already been created."

The leaders of the revolution realized the truth and began to make amends. "It was not an easy process to reverse. In 1975 there was a public battle to create an awareness that these manifestations had to be eliminated. And we are working on that. We are not solving it because they accuse us of human rights violations, but rather because we are convinced that it makes no sense, that we must show respect, and that we should not discriminate for reasons of conscience or faith."

Humberto Tirado: "There is a radical difference between the pre-revolutionary Church and the post-revolutionary Church: the attitude of its members. The Catholic community used to be made up of rich people. The Catholic Church of that time was not Cuban."

Haiti

Aristide Comments on Relations With U.S., Cuba

FL2302031591 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1720 GMT 22 Feb 91

[News conference by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Aristide] Do I have very good relations with the American Government? Yes, I do. If you see us moving along, it is arm in arm. One gets along with the other. One tries to respect the other. One sees the dignity of the other. Relations between the American Government and the Haitian Government are perfect.

Moreover, the processing of our brothers and sisters of the 10th department in Krome [Detention Center] is going well. This morning, I heard that the dossiers are being dealt with faster than we had imagined. I hope that before long there will be better solutions to these cases. By the way, I must point out that if they have not yet released all the people who are in Krome, especially those who were detained there before last 7 February, it is mainly because we have not yet succeeded in controlling the visa matter here in Haiti. It is a demonstration of dignity, pride, and struggle against corruption that we are undertaking here by uniting to avoid past methods of visa processing. People were being robbed because visas were being sold for thousands of dollars. Then people would leave Haiti and end up in Krome because of a

false visa. We are doing what we must do in our own house while at the same time working with the American Government in relation to these people. On the whole, the relations are good.

Each minister is better situated than I am to explain the aid money we have received. So, do not hesitate. Please talk to the ministers, ask them questions so that they can give you answers.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Aristide] In the Sandinist style or in the French style? I will answer the latter. This social policy will be neither in the style of the Frenchmen, nor in the style of the Sandinists, but in the style of the Haitians, in the Haitian style. [previous sentence in French] [applause]

That means that we are adult enough to look at France, see the good and acknowledge it. Then we look at other countries, see the good and acknowledge it. In our country there are many values precluding us from importing a policy. We can establish a national policy that does not confine itself within itself, but opens itself to see how socialism functions in France, to see how other countries are structured, and that is democracy in our opinion.

When we speak of an informal but participative democracy, we mean a democracy extending beyond the local border to embrace the world reality where one can discover main lines of democracy that inspire, but never main lines to import or to impose.

If you ask me what kind of relations exist between Haiti and Cuba, I will tell you that Haiti is not Cuba's enemy, just as it is not the enemy of so many countries that I cannot count them, and it is not necessary to count them. We want to develop a policy of friendship with all countries. We want to develop a policy of respect with all countries, including Cuba. It is a policy of respect. All Haitians living in Cuba are sons of the land. We cannot forget them in Cuba. In remembering them over there and in sending a great congratulatory greeting to them, we are saying that nothing obligates us to adopt a hasty policy relating to Cuba. As we are friends, we are not bound to have diplomatic relations to say from then on that we are friends. We can be friends in favoring all expressions of such friendship. For example, when a soccer team of ours goes to play soccer in Cuba, it is a testimony of the friendship of both peoples. When the native Haitian Martha Jean-Claude, that famous artist who is now here singing, it is another testimony of friendship and it is within that context [words indistinct].

Aristide to Restore Cuba Ties

PA2302030491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0105 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 22 Feb (EFE)—Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide today denied that he will implement the Cuban socialist model in his country, but he asserted that he will restore diplomatic relations with Havana, which were severed in 1961 by the Duvalier regime.

During his first news conference since taking office on 7 February, Aristide, a Salesian priest expelled from the order in 1988 because of his political activities, denied being a communist and invited the wealthy to cooperate with the poor in rebuilding Haiti.

"I am not a communist," Aristide stressed, adding, "My social policy will not be French or Cuban but Haitian."

Although he acknowledged that he will restore diplomatic relations with Cuba, which were broken off by former Haitian President Francois Duvalier, he emphasized that the decision will not be "hasty."

Aristide also gave assurances that he will dismiss Justice Minister Bayard Vincent if allegations linking him to the Duvalier's paramilitary forces, the "Tonton Macoutes," prove true. Since taking office at the Justice Ministry under the new government led by Aristide, Vincent has been accused of wearing the "Tonton Macoutes" uniform in the final years of Jean Claude Duvalier's regime, that was deposed on 7 February 1986.

In defending Vincent, Aristide stated that "he has demonstrated that he wants to take the Macoutes to trial," including Roger Lafontant, the interior minister under the Duvalier regime who led a coup attempt in January. Nevertheless, the Haitian president added that "if the accusations leveled against Vincent prove to be true, and if the people call for his dismissal, he will be dismissed."

Some Praise, Others Question Cabinet Appointments

FL2202133091 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Reaction is mixed after the selection of Haiti's new cabinet by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Businessmen have praised his choices while political advisors are questioning some selections.

Former presidential candidate Louis Dejoie says the president and the prime minister, Rene Preval, have reduced their ability to govern by not including other political parties in the administration.

Human rights activist Jean-Claude Bajou [as heard] says Mr. Aristide is paying personal political debts to friends and will stabilize his power.

Soviet Envoy on Relations, Gulf Peace Plan

PA2202194791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1820 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet peace plan represents the hope of solving the armed conflict, which, should it continue, could have consequences greater than World War II, Soviet Ambassador Oleg Darusenkov has stated.

Interviewed in his diplomatic mission during the celebration of "100 years of Mexican - Soviet relations," the diplomat explained that the peace process by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev stemmed from Soviet diplomatic consensus.

"At this point, it is better to appeal for diplomatic solutions and seek negotiations in all spheres, because we understand that wars today do not solve anything, on the contrary, they create more serious problems," he cautioned.

Darusenkov said that the answer announced by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tarek 'Aziz constitutes a "hope" of peace for the world, as well as of economic stability, which has been hurt lately instability in oil prices. He said it is now up to the UN Security Council, the United States, and the allied forces as to whether the war would continue.

The Soviet diplomat noted that his country's international peace policy outlined by President Gorbachev is the same one that applies for the USSR's domestic conflict with its Baltic Republics, where "we are insisting on a democratic solution within the law." He also that, after 100 years, Mexican-Soviet relations, are experiencing a period of analysis to determine commercial possibilities, in the present world of improving relations.

Darusenkov explained that his country's commercial relations with Mexico will not have a bearing on the negotiations with the United States and Canada on the free trade agreement.

He felt that that agreement will not close Mexico's commercial borders with other nations, but, on the contrary, will create the possibilities of expanded trade with other nations, the USSR included. The Soviet official admitted that his country must join the world economy because the decades it spent isolated from the rest of the world caused it severe problems in production.

"I think the period of economic relaxation we are experiencing will be beneficial for our economic development and those countries with which we trade. It affords a broader cooperation through mutual interests," he stated. The diplomat indicated that the Soviet position does not mean socialism is in decay. Although it is going through a period of crisis, it is still maintained in our country, and its true values are being restored, he said.

Visiting Costa Rican President Views Gulf War

PA2402215091 Paris AFP in Spanish 2004 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 24 Feb (AFP) - Concerning the conflict in the Persian Gulf, Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon said today in Mexico that "what we regret the most is the death of thousands of people and we ask God to enlighten us so that formulas for peace can be found.

"The situation is very difficult, but we are nation that believes in and loves peace, and for us, the most important thing is the death of human beings, that causes us great sorrow," he added. [passage omitted]

Calderon's official business will begin on 25 February when he will meet with Salinas at the national palace for talks, afterward they will sign several bilateral cooperation agreements. Calderon and his retinue will conclude their visit on 27 February.

Costa Rica

'Firm Support' for Coalition Position Expressed

PA2302165991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2535 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] San Jose, 23 Feb, (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Government stated today that any formula to reach a cease-fire in the Persian Gulf must be in "strict compliance" with the United Nations resolution demanding a complete withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territory.

The Costa Rican Government made the statements when it referred to the peace proposal presented by the Soviet Union. The peace proposal was accepted by Iraq with several conditions that are rejected by the United States. Costa Rica believes that the Soviet peace proposal offers the possibility of finding a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

A communique issued by the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry today noted: "Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait should take place as stipulated by the U.N. Security Council—that is, in an unconditional manner."

"Thus, Costa Rica expresses its firm support for the position taken by the countries that form the multinational forces operating in the Persian Gulf in the past hours, in the sense that the Iraqi forces must start to withdraw from Kuwait immediately and unconditionally," the communique added.

According to the Costa Rican Government, "The primacy of the people's rights and the viability of the U.N. system cannot be subjected to conditions, and violations of international rulings cannot be justified with the excuse of peace."

El Salvador

Government Criticizes FMLN Attitude, Actions

PA2302221591 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1405 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Government on 23 February, read by unidentified government official—monitored in progress]

[Text] ...with the UN Secretary General's mediation, states the following:

1. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has violated the pledges given during the peace process and it has adopted the strategy of obstructing the possibilities that are open at the negotiation table to reach political agreements that will allow the achievement of peace in our country within a short time.

2. Part of the FMLN's strategy is to broadcast discouraging news to undermine the people's morale and trust in the process and to blame the government for any deadlocks in the process. The truth is that the government continues to participate, with a firm political will, in the process of achieving peace.

The FMLN's action is clearly intended for electoral purposes; its purpose is to discredit the government of the republic's work to support the peace process; and it proves once more the FMLN's selfish plans to deny the Salvadoran people's right to live in peace by placing its own interests above the achievement of peace.

3. Despite the violence unleashed by the FMLN and its tactical maneuvers to obstruct the negotiations, the government will maintain its position of continuing with the peace process and will stay at the negotiations table until achieving the Salvadoran people's ultimate goal.

The Government of the Republic of El Salvador reasserts its intention to continue the search for peace through the civilized procedure of a negotiation; and its reasserts the guarantees that the electoral process may be carried out in a legal framework.

Given that incidents of electoral violence have occurred as a result of clashes among activists of different political tendencies, the Salvadoran Government considers it necessary to issue an appeal to the citizenry, urging it to avoid such confrontations.

The electoral process must be carried out in an appropriate atmosphere, avoiding any action that subverts the full exercise of democracy in our country. Leaders of contending political parties should cooperate, as they have previously done, so that their fellow party members can carry out their political activities with mutual respect.

The Governmnent of the Republic urges the citizenry to stop the enemies of democracy and freedom from obstructing the electoral process and to support the political party of their choice with their enthusiastic attitudes.

San Salvador, 23 February, 1991.

FMLN Issues Communique on Peace Negotiations

PA2202175591 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Communique "A View on the Negotiation Process," issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador; February, 1991]

[Text] 1. In previous months, important progress was made in the framework of the negotiations in that, through the mediation of the United Nations, an essential agenda was drawn up and working procedures were established on the basis of a common work document. One of the most difficult points is the topic of the Armed Forces. Both sides agreed that a purge and the end of impunity in the Armed Forces are necessary.

2. In the latest meetings, a worrisome situation has arisen in view of the position adopted by the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government, bringing about a retrogression in the negotiations. The government has been increasing amendments and objections to the work document on the Armed Forces, to such an extent that it practically maintains inflexible its original positions, casting doubts on the independence of the institutions in charge of the purge and ensuring truth, justice and equality in the search for and implementation of agreements. The government presented amendments to 41 of the 53 paragraphs of the work document.

3. In the past few weeks, the FMLN introduced in the talks with the United Nations the topic of a cease-fire, considering that the topic is complex because it involves unification in relation to the two armies, the problem of territory under FMLN control, and the conditions under which the FMLN would act politically in a cease-fire situation. We also tried to introduce the point dealing with constitutional reform, because it constitutes a guarantee for full negotiation based on the mere commitment to submit the points to a legislative debate. The FMLN is trying to speed up the negotiations, but we have not found receptivity by the government to attain progress in the discussion of the cease-fire and constitutional reforms.

4. This situation of retrogression and halt to the negotiations is an inseparable part of actions such as the massacre of 15 peasants in the outskirts of San Salvador, the destruction of DIARIO LATINO, constant bombings and military operations against FMLN positions, and the arrest of Salvadoran and foreign journalists for covering news in zones under guerrilla control.

5. At the same time, the Arena government maintains a propaganda campaign in its favor, utilizing the confidentiality agreement, and gives a false image about the status of the negotiations. The Cristiani government portrayed itself as flexible and as being interested in achieving agreements, but all of that had the intention of confusing public opinion so as to exploit the Salvadoran people's legitimate aspirations for peace.

6. We believe that government policy is based on the belief of the military leadership and the rightist business sectors linked to Arena that the end of the war is not in line with their interests. That would mean the continuation of U.S. aid, and would also mean the Army's resistance to a purge, to the end of impunity, and to military and political reality, that would be embodied in a cease-fire.

In addition, the Persian Gulf war and the U.S. position in that war has encouraged a warmongering attitude in Arena and the Army.

7. We know that there are repressive plans under way, including attacks on political and social leaders and closing opportunities achieved by society in order to make the FMLN break off the negotiations, thus preventing any results. That contradicts the FMLN offer to the UN secretary general of suspending attacks against civilian government officials.

8. The FMLN [word indistinct] reiterates its commitment to contribute to peace efforts and reaffirms that it will continue at the negotiation table struggling to find formulas of understanding that will make it possible to reach political agreements and establish the necessary conditons for a cease-fire as soon as possible.

[Signed] The FMLN
El Salvador, February 1991

FMLN Says Government Retreating to Past Stands

PA2302143991 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica (Special to LA PRENSA GRAFICA)—On 21 February, at the conclusion of another round of peace negotiations with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] insurgent group, Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, a member of the government dialogue commission, said: "There has been no setback."

During a telephone interview, an observer at the negotiations said that this was the only comment uttered by Col. Vargas at the meeting's conclusion. Government delegate Santamaria's only remark to reporters was: "We are negotiating."

UN mediator Alvaro de Soto said that he could not describe the meeting as positive or negative; however, he pointed out that he was not happy in Costa Rica because reporters kept bothering him.

The FMLN leaders felt the opposite, our source said. In fact they even broke their pledge of confidentiality and only stopped short of outlining the negotiators' statements at the meeting.

Francisco Jovel and Joaquin Villalobos explained how the session was conducted and described it as a "setback on the government's part," arguing that the government delegates had returned to former positions.

The atmosphere was pessimistic because the smiles the FMLN delegates wore upon their arrival disappeared by the time the meeting ended; it was the same with the government team. Despite all of that, the observer quoted one of Villalobos' phrases: "The path of negotiation is irreversible. Neither side can withdraw from the negotiation table."

When the meeting concluded, reporters asked the FMLN leaders for their position on the upcoming elections. They responded that there would be no truce, but that they would not hinder the process. They did not dismiss the possibility, however, of continuing their attacks throughout the country.

FMLN Commander Announces Military Escalation

PA2302044691 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 21 Feb 91 p 1

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has announced an escalation of military actions on a national level because no agreement was reached at the negotiating table and because of the approaching date of elections that, in their opinion, will not contribute in any way to peace in the nation.

Camilo Turcios, commander of the FMLN's Francisco Sanchez Central Front, said that the rebels are not optimistic about reaching any agreements in this round of talks because the government continues to be uncompromising in its position on society's demilitarization and the Armed Forces.

The rebel commander claimed that the government delegation is preventing any political agreements from being reached at the negotiating table, which is why the progress of the peace process is limited. Therefore, he said, new efforts will have to be undertaken to force the government to reach an agreement about the military.

Turcios added that this does not mean that a military solution to the war is preferred. Given that no agreement has been reached, however, the FMLN will be forced to pressure the government through military actions and by continuing to weaken the Armed Forces' structure, which can no longer count on an efficient Air Force.

According to Turcios, the rebels' military actions will be escalated on a national level, either before or after the March elections. The actions do not mean that they seek to obstruct an electoral process, which, the rebels claim, will not contribute to peace in the nation.

The rebel commander based his statements on the meager conditions offered the opposition political parties that will participate in the March elections, in which Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] already has a lead in a tainted process.

Camilio Turcios, during his conversation with the press at one of the rebel fronts in the eastern part of the nation, said that a repressive campaign has been launched against the opposition that influences the electoral process, in which all the political parties are presumably participating under equal conditions.

Turcios, when questioned about a possible cease-fire at the negotiating table, said that it was subject to the position adopted by the government delegation and that the FMLN is willing to sign the cease-fire as long as political agreements are reached that will contribute to peace in the nation.

FMLN To Prevent Elections in Areas it Controls

PA2302040291 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 21 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] announced today that it will not allow the 10 March elections to be held in territories under its control.

In telephone calls to the local media, the rebels said that the general command has decided not to boycott [boicotear] the elections; it stated, however, that the elections cannot possibly be held in territories controlled by the rebel forces. The rebels prevented voting in approximately 26 towns throughout San Miguel, Usulutan, San Vicente, Chalatenango, Cabanas, Cuscatlan, La Union, and Morazan Departments during the 1989 elections.

It was reported this morning that the rebel forces had raided the towns of San Agustin and San Francisco Javier to demonstrate their position on the electoral process. The seizure of those towns might be the beginning of a partial boycott of the upcoming March elections of deputies and municipal officials. A total election boycott, previously declared by the FMLN, prevented thousands of voters from casting their ballots, and only 40 percent of registered voters participated in the elections.

Arena President Reiterates Parties-FMLN Links

PA2302023891 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Armando Calderon Sol, president of Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], reiterated today that there are links between the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the opposition parties. According to Calderon Sol, it is unfortunate that some unions and political parties are forming part of a coordinated attack on the government. The Arena president said the statements by Arena member Francisco Guerrero are well founded.

[Begin recording] [Calderon] There are many institutions and organizations, which, in their eagerness to criticize and to oppose Arena during this political campaign, are united and seem to be acting hand in hand with the FMLN. Perhaps they are not acting hand in hand and they are independent groups, but their political actions and their criticism of the government and Arena make them seem as if they are united. That is what Dr. Guerrero, speaking as candidate to deputy, said. I think he has the right to make such conjectures because he is seeing the attacks that are coordinated by many groups and institutions.

[Reporter] Do you not think his remarks weaken the ruling party?

[Calderon] No, the government is strong. What he is saying is the truth. I think that many who do not like to see themselves in that light should moderate their attacks

and not repeat what a leftist, extreme leftist, or the FMLN says. Sometimes they just copy the words to sound superior. It does not look good for them to do so. [end recording]

Regarding the negotiations between the FMLN and the government, the San Salvador mayor said he is optimistic about the results, adding that peace is close at hand.

[Begin Calderon recording] I think peace is near because of the current situation in the world, which totally rejects violence to attain power. I also think the political opportunities and the democracy in the country are becoming more and more consolidated and there is no sense or reason for violence. I think that despite the difficult and hard times, peace is getting closer. [end recording]

Dr. Armando Calderon Sol today presented to the Union of Leaders of Salvadoran Enterprises his municipal government plan, which he will carry out if he wins the elections.

Group Denounces U.S. C-130 Overflights

PA2202185791 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] We have a news bulletin from the 3rd Military Region of the National Army for Democracy regarding the overflying of U.S. spy planes in the northeastern region of the country. The news bulletin states:

On 21 February during the morning, a U.S. Air Force spy C-130 plane constantly overflew territories under FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] control in the northeastern region of the country. On other occasions, the information collected by those U.S. planes has been given to the Salvadoran Armed Forces Command so that they can launch bombings, which have left victims and destruction among the population of the northeastern region.

We hold the U.S. Embassy responsible for all actions undertaken by the Salvadoran Armed Forces in territories under our control resulting from the use of the data collected by those espionage flights.

El Salvador, 21 February, 1991
3rd Military Region of the National Army for Democracy

Guerrillas Fire Rockets at Transmission Center

PA2202165691 Paris AFP in Spanish 1610 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Feb (AFP)—Military sources have reported that urban guerrilla comandos attacked an army post with rockets this morning. The post is located in the southern part of the city near the presidential palace.

At 0910 (1510 GMT), the guerrillas fired two RPG-7 rockets at the Armed Forces Transmission Center in the San Jacinto district.

Until now there have been no reports on casualties. Military sources report, however, that one of the rockets apparently hit one of the administrative offices.

Guatemala

Government Condemns Attack on British Embassy

PA2302013991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1951 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)— The Guatemalan Government today "strongly" condemned the terrorist attack perpetrated last night on the British Embassy. There were no reported casualties as a result of the attack.

The Foreign Ministry reported in a communique that President Jorge Serrano has ordered security forces to carry out an in-depth investigation to capture those who planned and carried out "this new act of terror."

The police stated that the explosive device was placed in an electric generator located in front of the embassy and the explosion seriously damaged the diplomatic mission's windows and walls.

"The Serrano administration deplores these attitudes because they do not favor the peace process that the people of Guatemala want so much," the Foreign Ministry document states.

No organization has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

Islamic Group Takes Credit

PA2402183991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1545 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A clandestine organization called the Islamic Brotherhood has claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack perpetrated against the British Embassy in Guatemala City, an attack that claimed no victims, Guatemalan newspapers reported today.

According to the newspaper SIGLO XXI, a woman called the editor read a document from the Brotherhood, and affirmed that the attack on the embassy represents the Islamic world's unanimous protest in solidarity with Iraq, which is being attacked by a multinational coalition headed by the United States to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait.

"We are a pro-Iraqi organization, and we are brothers in Islam and our faith. Protests against the representatives of the multinational force will continue in Guatemala," the organization threatened.

The woman condemned "the imperialist aggression headed by the United States."

"The date is linked to the beginning of Ramadan," the woman pointed out. Ramadan is a month of fasting and abstinence for those who practice the Muslim religion.

The bomb explosion severely damaged the British Embassy building, but caused no casualties.

On Friday, the government of President Jorge Serrano Elias increased the protection of the foreign embassies against possible terrorist actions resulting from the Persian Gulf war.

URNG Denies Attacking Civilian Patrolmen

PA2302180391 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 21 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Rebels of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] have issued a war bulletin admitting that they inflicted 11 casualties "on soldiers of the Army's Ranger unit in an attack carried out in the area around the Xalbal Bridge, Ixcan Municipality, Quiche Department." The rebels denied the army report that the dead were civilian patrolmen.

The URNG statement said that on that day the Army was chasing a group of rebels on the Northern Transversal Highway, which led to the clash where the 11 Ranger unit soldiers were killed. It added that the guerrillas seized 11 rifles, a hand grenade, nine ammunition belts, nine harnesses, camouflage uniforms, grain bags, and 1,200 cartridges.

URNG Accuses Army of Evading Agreements

PA2302041391 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Feb 90 p 44

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 February (Cerigua)—The only way to ensure peace and democratization in Guatemala is for the government of President Jorge Serrano to respect, abide by, and stick to the spirit and letter of the agreements aimed at resolving the armed conflict, which were signed last year, reported the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) today.

In a document, the URNG General Command denounced a government and Army campaign aimed at creating the conditions to evade or defer compliance with the agreements between the rebels and different Guatemalan sectors in 1990, within the framework of the Oslo Agreement. This agreement was signed by the guerrillas and the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) in March of 1990.

The political solution is not to attain a simple "peace" agreement or to sign an armistice, but to establish the foundations to overcome the national crisis and begin the process of building a real, convenient, and participative democracy, said the URNG.

In order to "torpedo the continuation of the conversations," the rebels noted "the manipulation of the armed incident in Peten (on 30 January), when some military commanders irresponsibly took the president (Serrano) in an Army helicopter to an area of operations and military clashes."

The URNG also accused the Army of distorting the truth about clashes which took place between the guerrilla and government forces on 16 February in Quiche. These clashes resulted in 11 government force casualties. Regarding these casualties, the military high command "attempts to make them appear as peasants, who had nothing to do with their counter-rebel actions," and fails to mention that "we recovered 11 rifles, one hand grenade, two belts, nine knapsacks, camouflage uniforms (for jungle combat), chutes, and 1,200 bullets."

The guerrilla command stressed that statements by the government are not enough, adding that it is necessary to act within the realm of reality and in an unequivocal fashion, as only in this way will the internal armed conflict be solved and peace attained.

Honduras

Arms Shipment Seized, Driver Interviewed

PA2302002391 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2113 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] This morning we reported the seizure of a normal-sized arms shipment. Honduran citizen Rafael Arnulfo Aroca was driving the weapons from an area close to the Nicaraguan border for the Chinchoneros group, which is a guerrilla group said to be operating in Honduras.

During this operation, members of the 105th Brigade stationed at Ojo de Agua, in the El Paraiso area, seized 36 RPG grenades, 41 RPG grenade propellants, eight packs of non-electric detonators, six packs of electric detonators, four rolls of slow fuse that we were told equal 4,000 feet, and 13 radios.

The name of the accused man is Rafael Arnulfo Aroca, born in El Paraiso, age 25, and he lives in the Las Dificultades village near the Nicaraguan border. He stated that his pseudonym was Felipe Gonzalez and that he had orders to give these weapons to some members of the Chinchonero group in the El Zamorano area in Danli. He mentioned several persons, including a man called El Gordo. Aroca said he was not sure, however, whether the name was El Gordo because they often change their pseudonyms.

The weapons were allegedly sent by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] to the Chinchonero group. The seizure was carried out at the Conchagua village as Aroca crossed the river of the same name, which is located eight km from the Nicaraguan border.

The authorities also produced a note found on him that was signed by Captain Francisco Javier Benavides, who

is allegedly stationed at an EPS base in Ocotal. According to Aroca, Benavides gave him the weapons and the note, which was the safe-conduct needed so that no Sandinist authority would stop him. When Aroca was presented to the media, he said that this all took place in La Laguna, Segovia Department.

We have his statements regarding who he maintained contacts for the arms trafficking in national territory.

[Begin recording] [Aroca] I was introduced to Ulises (Isaguirre).

[First unidentifed reporter] Was Ulises a Nicaraguan?

[Aroca] Yes, he is a member of the Sandinist Front.

[First reporter] What other persons did you mention?

[Aroca] Israel, who was also from the Sandinist Front. The other one was the one who called himself Ernesto. I even brought him to Honduras.

[Second unidentified reporter] Pardon me, how were you supposed to turn over those weapons here in Honduras?

[Aroca] They gave me orders on Wednesday at the [words indistinct] place to turn them over in El Zamorano to Nelson and El Gordo, who were the contacts here in Honduras. I had to come to a house they have here, which they had shown me before.

[Second reporter] Where is the house located?

[Aroca] Here in El Zamorano.

[Second reporter] In Francisco Morazan?

[Aroca] No, here in El Paraiso. There is one Zamorano in Francisco Morazan and another in El Paraiso.

[Second reporter] Where were the weapons going?

[Aroca] At first they said they were for the Chinchoneros, or for the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. They misled me, but I did not care. I just wanted them to pay me for the job.

[Second reporter] How much were they going to pay you?

[Aroca] They were going to pay me 3,500 for the trip.

[Second reporter] Lempiras or dollars?

[Aroca] Lempiras.

[First reporter] Did you use a pseudonym?

[Aroca] Yes. They called me Felipe Gonzalez Rodriguez.

[Second Reporter] What is your real name?

[Aroca] Rafael Arnulfo Aroca.

[Second reporter] How old are you?

[Aroca] Twenty-five years old.

[Second reporter] Are you married?

[Aroca] No, I am single.

[Second reporter] Do you have any children?

[Aroca] Yes, but since I often went out at night, they decided to leave the house.

[Second reporter] Do you belong to any political party here in Honduras?

[Aroca] Yes, the National Party.

[Second reporter] Do you agree with the (ideology) of the Nicaraguans of the Sandinist National Liberation Front?

[Aroca] No, I did this for the money. The crisis, the measures, and all that puts one in a hard spot, and if someone offers you money you do not ask too many questions.

[Second reporter] You have no wife, however.

[Aroca] No, but I have property and children, and I have to support them.

[Second reporter] You look like a soldier. Have you been a member of the Army?

[Second reporter] No.

[First reporter] Who was the captain who contacted you in Nicaragua and fled to Costa Rica?

[Aroca] I met him when I took him to Costa Rica. He was called El Chele and I also knew him as Ivan, Federico, and several other names.

[First reporter] Why did he flee?

[Aroca] He fled because they arrested one of those who were involved with the missiles. I brought one of them here because the materiel was turned over in November, right? No, it was on 21 December. The meetings were constant here and there to coordinate the work. One of them even came here. He told me his name was (Restonton).

[First reporter] Did they tell you whether they were going to stage a coup?

[Aroca] No, they did not tell me. They only released the necessary information.

[First reporter] Do you think the Chinchoneros [words indistinct]?

[Aroca] It is possible.

[First reporter] Who have you met with?

[Aroca] Only two, Nelson and El Gordo.

[First reporter] And in Nicaragua?

[Aroca] I met several there. I met El Chele, Israel, Cleny, another one who said he was called Ernesto Antonio, and

Roberto. Roberto even came to Honduras for a while and had problems here because of some weapons.

[First reporter] Is Clemente Honduran?

[Aroca] Yes, he is Honduran.

[First reporter] Is he a member of the EPS?

[Aroca] Yes. [end recording]

These were statements by Rafael Arnulfo Aroca, of El Paraiso, who was arrested this morning by members of the 105th Brigade of the Armed Forces while transporting weapons across the Conchagua River near Conchagua village.

Nicaragua

Latest on Health Workers' Strike Reported

PA2302180091

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 23 February broadcast three separate reports lasting five, two, and one minute each, respectively, pertaining to the ongoing health workers' strike.

The first report states that the health workers' strike is gaining strength, because "about 150 Health Ministry units, including health centers and administrative offices, are under the control of the workers, who have intensified their strike since 21 February to demand better living conditions and health services."

It adds that "the regional hospital of Matagalapa has joined ongoing strikes at three Managua hospitals, because it has no medicines and the bunker fuel that keeps the boilers operating was used up, and the Health Ministry has shown no interest in replenishing it. Manolo Morales, Carlos Marx, and Psychiatry Hospitals are the only ones treating hospitalized patients who will be released as their health condition warrants."

This report adds that health union workers claim that the government's proposal to restructure positions, which was presented yesterday and rejected by the health workers' negotiating commission, "intends to take away their benefits, freeze salaries, and cause division within the union."

It says that the workers' negotiating commission yesterday rejected the government's negotiating commission and "demanded direct talks with President Violeta Chamorro, who will return to the country today to find a solution to the conflict."

This report includes an interview with Alfredo Sequeira of Fetsalud [Federation of Health Workers]. As for the government's negotiating commission he states that, as was the case in the past, "we believe that the government-appointed commission is incapable of solving this problem." He adds that the commission "seeks to eliminate the current collective bargaining agreement we signed with the Health Ministry, cause division among health workers—because lower-ranked workers are being promoted and vice versa—and take away the workers' benefits."

Sequeira adds that "we are sending a letter to President Chamorro and Minister Lacayo asking them to assume their responsibility by heading the negotiations, because Health Minister Dr. Salmeron, Dr. Ibarra, and the labor minister have shown that their ineptness and insensitivity toward our problems and proposals."

The second report states that "the total closure of three hospitals—two medical-surgical hospitals and the psychiatry hospital—has forced Managua's two military hospitals to offer their services to all kinds of emergencies that might emerge." It adds that these hospitals have traditionally served soldiers and their relatives and, up until the past few months, also offered private medical services.

The third report states that "the two children's hospitals in Managua—namely, La Mascota and Velez Paiz—and the Berta Calderon Women's Hospital, cannot join the strike because of the nature of their services, according to the strike commissions at those hospitals."

It adds that "at the La Mascota Children's Hospital, the doctors decided to treat patients from all over the country needing emergency medical services outdoors, under the trees, as a form of protest, and because it is impossible for them to close that hospital completely." The report quotes a member of this hospital's strike commission as saying that it is confronting serious difficulties in feeding its patients, because caterers are refusing to deliver supplies, because the Health Ministry has failed to pay its bills.

The report adds that, as is the case at the children's hospital, the workers at the women's hospital cannot stop working completely, and thus, have announced other forms of protest.

Radio Corporacion Rejects FSLN Accusations

PA2402201891 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Communique issued by Radio Corporacion on 20 February in Managua—read by station announcer]

[Text] In view of the charges levied by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in a communique issued on 18 February, which stated that we unleashed a campaign to blame FSLN groups for the murder of Enrique Bermudez, Radio Corporacion wants to state the following:

1. The doctrine of democracy and basic values upheld by this station do not allow it to unleash campaigns aimed at discrediting any person or group.

2. In exercise of the unrestricted freedom of expression promoted by the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro government, Radio Corporacion broadcasts some programs, which open our microphones allowing people to express their own views.

3. The FSLN is confusing the views of people who make accusations with Radio Corporacion's points of view, although these are clearly expressed in the "On the Dot" ["En Punto"] newscasts directed by Jose Castillo.

4. It is extremely dangerous for the FSLN to be accusing us, because it has been impossible to do away with that deadly and aberrant party-army feature, a characteristic of Sandinism for the past 11 years.

5. We call on the FSLN to learn to hear the voices of the people through independent news media, such as ours. We will also alert the people, government, and international organizations of any lethal consequences that may stem from these charges.

[Dated] Managua, 20 February 1991
Radio Corporacion, Ltd.

Panama

Endara 'Outraged' Over Release of Villalaz

PA2202154291 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Report by Jenny Lynn Martinez]

[Text] The release of former attorney general Carlos Augusto Villalaz has shaken the nation, angered to see Villalaz become the first to benefit from this law [Law 13]. President Endara, who signed the bill into law, said today that he feels disappointed with the judicial branch and that he never expected Villalaz to be the first to benefit from it.

[Begin Endara recording] I am deeply outraged over yesterday's developments. I am truly disappointed with the judicial branch, in which I had tremendous faith. This thing disturbs me most of all. The Supreme Court of Justice submitted a bill to the National Legislative Assembly, which approved it by an overwhelming margin. I am proud to sign the bill into law.

The law's chief objective was to release from jails the large number of low-income people who were in jail and had no legal defense. They languished there for months. They even spent years in jail for relatively minor crimes. I know—and I am upset about this—that jails are overcrowded with these people. This situation constitutes a national tragedy and a violation of all their human rights.

The purpose of that law was to vacate the jails. Perhaps the law would not greatly solve the problem but would at least be a drop of justice in that sea of injustice, which is what the jails are. To my surprise, the first case is not related to some black guy, whom I had hoped would be the first to leave the Modelo Jail. Instead, the attorney general of the dictatorial regime, who oppressed the people so much, is let go. I really feel cheated by this because I signed the bill into law.

I hope the Supreme Court of Justice will step in. I cannot because, as the executive, I respect the judicial branch. I hope the Supreme Court of Justice steps in to examine the judge that made the decision and ask him what happened there. This case seems very odd to me and requires a full investigation. [end recording]

Judge Responsible for Villalaz Case Dismissed

PA2402140191 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Feb 91 p 29

[Text] Carlos Lucas Lopez, magistrate president of the Supreme Court of Justice, has announced the dismissal of Guillermo Salazar, first judge of Panama and the official who ordered the release of former Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalaz on Wednesday 20 February.

Villalaz' release has caused a deep crisis within the Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's office because, in addition to Salazar's dismissal, all the higher prosecutors, the special prosecutor, the drug secretary, the delegate prosecutors, and the assistant prosecutor tendered their resignation in a note to the attorney general. The official yesterday cancelled a meeting with the media amid the tense atmosphere around his office, located at 34th Street and Peru Avenue. The tense atmosphere resulted from a demonstration by almost 100 men and women who shouted that he should resign and who promised to send him to the firing squad.

Women members of the civic crusade arrived around 1500 yesterday, carrying signs demanding prison sentences and the execution of civilians and military officers from the previous dictatorship, because they would reportedly benefit from Law No. 3—the same one which resulted in Carlos Augusto Villalaz' release. The civic crusade members, who included women of all ages and social status, requested the current attorney general's resignation. He suddenly cancelled a meeting with journalists amid rumors of his imminent resignation, given the harsh criticism from President Guillermo Endara and Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon about the situation of justice in Panama.

On the other hand, Chiriqui lawyer Rodrigo Miranda, former special prosecutor and member of the recently created "Movement for Democracy"—which includes leading Panamanians—arrived at the Attorney General's Office. Miranda told this reporter that "if the government does not fulfill its promises to enforce justice, we will have to enforce it with our own hands." He added that the Panamanian people must prepare, morally and spiritually, to hear more terrible news than Manuel Solis Palma's departure from the country, Carlos Augusto Villalaz' release, and Rodolfo "Popito" Chiari's safe-conduct.

Former Prosecutor Miranda added that the terrible news for which the people must prepare is the release of Father Hector Gallego's and Doctor Hugo Spadafora's murderers.

He also described as corrupt: Guillermo Endara's administration, the Attorney General's Office, and the judicial branch. Miranda added that they release Spadafora's and Gallego's murderers and say "that all is under control."

He also reasserted his accusations that the current government is linked with drug trafficking activities. He also reasserted that the government is venal and corrupt. "We are in the mafia's hands," he said curtly.

Furthermore, this journalist was able to learn that high-ranking civilian officials from the former regime have applied, through their lawyers, for the benefits granted by the reforms to the Judicial Code, approved under Law No. 3. The officials include Rigoberto Paredes, who would benefit because he is 67 years old. The law maintains that no one over 65 be sent to prison. Other officials include Julio "Julito" Ortega, the dictatorship's announcer, whose lawyer has filed documents at the appropriate court to avoid his arrest; and Manuel Solis Palma, whose lawyer—acting prosecutor Ramon Valdez—is making all the necessary contacts at government level for the judicial authorities to allow him to leave the country—presumably for Venezuela.

Linares Comments on Treaty Renogotiations

PA2302023491 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 22 Feb 91 pp A1, A2

[Article by Hermes Sucre Serrano on the LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA news staff]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares stated at the Legislative Assembly on 21 February that, because of certain disadvantageous political and economic factors, Panama is not prepared to negotiate a new treaty with the United States.

"The wise thing for Panama would be to sit down at the negotiating table with as little disadvantages as possible, and with having achieved political and economic stability. Since we have a high unemployment rate and a significant lack of resources to face our basic needs, for the time being, we are not enjoying such conditions," Linares stated.

Foreign Minister Linares made the statement yesterday at the regular meeting of the Legislative Assembly Foreign Relations Commission. Linares addressed the polemics surrounding the administration of the canal in the year 1999. "It is a challenge that we cannot turn down. The initiation of new negotiations would be an irresponsibile act that this government is not willing to take," he said.

Given the sensitivity of the issue, Linares warned that one must be cautious when commenting on the matter; he noted that the defense of the Canal depends on Panama's maintenance of its neutrality, so that it can avoid becoming a target of war in the future.

In reference to the U.S. Southern Command's military maneuvers in the interior of the Republic, Linares said that the maneuvers are unilateral because Panama no longer has an army. The Torrijos-Carter Treaties permit the United States to conduct such maneuvers, he added.

With respect to the signing of social assistance agreements between Panama and the United States, Linares explained that some programs, involving the Health Ministry, the Public Works Ministry, and the Education Ministry, have been implemented in the remote areas of the country since 1990. The assistance programs consist of medical, dental, and veterinary visits, as well as construction of roads and improvements in school facilities.

Argentina

Government Reaffirms Support for UN Resolutions

PY2302012491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0033 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (TELAM)—At this crucial moment in the Persian Gulf conflict, the Argentine Government today reiterated its strict compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions which call for Iraq's total, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Through a communique issued by the Argentine Foreign Ministry, the Argentine executive branch stated that it shares the position of other friendly governments that Iraq must begin an immediate and straightforward withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory, thereby avoiding the continuation of a painful conflict which has consequences for the people of Iraq and humankind as a whole.

The communique adds: Our objective continues to be full compliance with the principles and provisions of the UN Charter because only these principles and provisions are capable of ensuring a lasting and stable peace in the region and a world based on rules and standards of behavior in which respect for law and justice will prevail.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry communique concludes by stating that Argentina hopes that the government in Baghdad will take advantage of this new chance to put an end to the conflict and to effectively reestablish peace and stability in the Gulf.

Attempted Murder of Former President Foiled

PY2402031091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0207 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM)—According to Radical Civic Union [UCR] sources, former President Raul Alfonsin was the target of an unsuccessful attack tonight by an individual who pulled out a gun and pointed it at the chairman of the UCR, who was addressing a crowd in front of the UCR branch headquarters in San Nicolas, Buenos Aires Province.

The actions of the person who pulled out the gun, apparently a retired border policeman named Ismael Abdala, were noticed by people listening to the former president. The situation developed into a melee of blows and shouts, and the aggressor was finally arrested.

The former president was visiting San Nicolas. As he was speaking at 2230 tonight in front of the UCR branch office on Mitre Street, between Francia and Urquiza Streets, the individual pointed his weapon at the podium where Alfonsin was standing.

When people listening to the former president noticed the actions of the aggressor, they attacked him and managed to disarm him. This led to an exchange of blows and some running around, until police officers took action and Alfonsin was taken away by car.

The press office for the UCR chairman reported that Abdala, who was carrying a .32-caliber revolver and an identity card from the Army Social Benefits Institute (IOSE), was arrested and is being held by local police personnel. The former president was not hurt.

Alfonsin on Assassination Attempt; More Details

PY2402193091 Madrid EFE in English 1629 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, Feb 24 (EFE)—Former Argentine president Raul Alfonsin said Sunday [24 February] he hoped a failed assassination attempt the previous day had been an isolated incident and not backlash from right-wing extremists.

"I don't want to call this the symptom of a growing phenomenon. I simply hope that this has been an isolated incident," the leader of the opposition Radical Civic Union (URC) party said. But Alfonsin added, "We must not forget that there are authoritarian sectors in Argentina."

Early in his 1984-89 term in office, Alfonsin ordered trials against military personnel accused of rights abuses during the 1976-83 military government. Many high-ranking officers received stiff prison terms, but current President Carlos Menem pardoned most last year.

An outspoken critic of the present Peronist government, Alfonsin was attacked while delivering a speech late Saturday at a UCR rally in the city of San Nicolas, nearly 200 km north of Buenos Aires. A former frontier guardsman seated near the podium where Alfonsin was speaking pulled a .32-calibre pistol and started to press the trigger. A party spokesman said the gun misfired and spectators overpowered the gunman, identified as Ismael Abdala, and an armed accomplice who did not draw his weapon.

A third suspect managed to escape, police said.

Alfonsin continued his speech, ending 10 minutes later to tumultuous applause.

"In Argentina and in South America in general there has always been a tendency towards direct action and violence," Alfonsin told a San Nicolas television station Sunday. "Argentina is suffering very much, and this may provoke a certain sector to choose the route of confrontation," he added.

Crowds from Saturday's rally afterwards stormed through the streets and clashed with security forces. No motive was immediately known for the assassination attempt.

UCR officials said that following an anonymous telephone tip-off, police also defused a bomb found at a hotel where Alfonsin was due to attend a dinner with

party leaders later Saturday evening. But Alfonsin, who is touring cities in Buenos Aires province to drum up UCR support, has refused to cancel his forthcoming appearances, party leaders said.

Bomb Explodes Outside La Tablada Barracks

PY2202234091 Madrid EFE in English 2319 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, Feb 22 (EFE)—Bombs exploded Friday [22 February] near a military base outside the Argentine capital and in the building housing a leftist daily, officials said. No injuries were reported in either incident.

The first bomb went off in the early morning hours underneath a car parked outside barracks of the Third Mechanized Infantry Regiment of La Tablada, in the province of Buenos Aires. The car, belonging to Army Maj. Roberto D'Amico, was badly damaged in the blast, officials said.

Also Friday, employees of the left-leaning PAGINA 12 daily were evacuated from newspaper's main offices in the capital, minutes before a bomb exploded in the building's doorway. One of the opposition paper's heads, Jorge Prim, told reporters that the daily frequently received threatening phone calls.

In January 1989, the La Tablada base was taken over by armed members of a left-wing group called the All for the Fatherland Movement. Troops quickly crushed the take-over. Nine soldiers and two police officers were killed in the fighting.

Twenty-eight rebels were also listed as having died in clashes with security forces, but rights groups say many were summarily executed after surrendering.

Brazil

Government Supports President Bush's Proposal

PY2202230091 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Brazil supports the proposal made today by President George Bush for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. The Brazilian Government considers the Soviet peace proposal for the Persian Gulf highly positive, and at the same time believes that the U.S. counterproposal for a cease-fire in the region is fully acceptable.

Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek said the conditions imposed by the United States for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait are absolutely natural. According to the minister, President Bush's demands for a cease-fire [as heard] are in keeping with the UN Security Council resolutions.

[Begin Rezek recording] This is what would be expected in fulfilling the UN Security Council resolutions, and nothing else. What has been requested, with the goal of preventing a ground attack and seeking an end to the war, is what the Security Council has already decided, along with some natural demands such as the withdrawal of mines from the area and other precautionary measures. I did not see anything significant in this counterproposal that could be regarded as not showing a very firm desire to achieve peace. The counterproposal could be accepted by Iraq; if so, this war will end immediately. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Rezek added that if the war ends, Brazil will be able to send troops to the Gulf to join a peace force that could oversee the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Retired Officer Proposes Missile Deal With Iran

PY2402013091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Feb 91 Second Section p 4

[By Roberto Lopes]

[Excerpts] Three and a half months after managing to pull his team of 21 engineers out of Iraq—engineers reportedly hired by the Iraqi Government to build an air-to-air missile—reserve Brigadier Hugo de Oliveira Piva, Brazil's most well-known missile expert, has secretly returned to the Middle East.

FOLHA DE SAO PAULO has discovered that Piva left a proposal at the Iranian Ministry of Military Industrialization [name as published] a few weeks ago to advise that ministry's missile group of the development of two projects: a missile with a range of 600 km, which was Iran's primary objective at that time; and another more sophisticated missile with a range of 1,000 km. [passage omitted]

Piva has already given Iranian officials the names of two Brazilian civilian engineers who will assist him in the project if his offer is accepted: Celso Leal Mariuzzo and Carlos Eduardo Santana.

As far as FOLHA could ascertain, Hugo Piva got in touch with the Iranian Ministry of Military Industrialization through a middleman named Kootlughloo [as published], a Turkish citizen who lives in Geneva, Switzerland. Piva was scheduled to hold another meeting with Iranian officials on 14 February but the meeting was postponed.

In his proposal to the Iranians, Piva indicated that the two missiles would be developed in Iran. He also mentioned the possibility of employing for this task all 20 engineers who work for his consulting firm, HOP [Hugo de Oliveira Piva], which has its headquarters in Sao Jose dos Campos (95 km from Sao Paulo). These engineers are the same ones he used in Iraq between September 1989 and September 1990. [passage omitted]

Mariuzzo, a high-ranking official of the Sao Paulo company Orbita, is an old acquaintance of Brigadier Piva. It

was with him that Piva began to develop the Brazilian "Piranha" missile at the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) in Sao Jose dos Campos in the seventies. The development of this weapon turned into a long story with a sad ending. [passage omitted]

Piva Offered Nuclear Bomb Project to Iraq in 1981

PY2402233091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Feb 91 Second Section p 4

[By RL]

[Text] Brigadier Hugo de Oliveira Piva's proposed to develop two missiles for Iran is his fourth major initiative in the Middle East, although it is not the most ambitious one. In the first six months of 1981, while he was still an air brigadier on active duty, Piva offered the Iraqi Government two projects: one for an atomic bomb and another for a missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

The brigadier's negotiations with an Iraqi military delegation took place in a room in a local SNI (National Intelligence Service, which was dismantled last year and replaced by the Strategic Affairs Secretariat) office in the old Finance Ministry headquarters in downtown Rio de Janeiro. The negotiations were supported by General Octavio Medeiros, retired, who was SNI chief at the time.

Medeiros appointed Colonel Luis de Alencar Araripe to participate in the negotiations on his behalf. Col. Araripe was the nuclear expert [preceding word in English] for the SNI Central Agency (in Brasilia). The members of the Iraqi delegation were suspicious, however, because they had received a similar proposal in 1980 from Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.], the Sao Paulo armored vehicle manufacturer. The proposal had been an amateurish, shaky project about which the government in Baghdad had sternly complained.

In 1981, however, the idea was no longer being sponsored by a private company, but by the Brazilian Government itself. Piva planned to offer the Iraqis a version of the Sonda-3 rocket. The rocket was being developed by the Sao Jose dos Campos Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) within the framework of a program with allegedly peaceful objectives that was being controlled by the Aeronautics Ministry.

Engineer Ozilio Carlos da Silva, the Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] trade director at the time, who was also a personal friend of Piva, took part in the negotiations, which the Iraqi military gave up a short while later. Sometime later, Ozilio da Silva became Embraer superintendent and in 1989, he offered the Iraqi Government, together with Brigadier Piva, a spy satellite project (this was also rejected by the Baghdad Government).

Piva Denies Story on Trip, Meetings in Iran

PY2402023091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Feb 91 Second Section p 4

["Main portions" of telephone interview with reserve Brigadier Hugo de Oliveira Piva by a FOLHA DE SAO PAULO reporter from the Hugo de Oliveira Piva (HOP) company offices in Sao Jose dos Campos on 19 February]

[Text] [FOLHA] I would like to ask about the proposal to develop rockets that you have presented to Iran.

[Piva] I have never been in Iran.

[FOLHA] According to my information, you submitted your proposal to the Iranian Ministry of Military Industrialization [name as published], and you listed Engineer Mariuzzo as one of your assistants.

[Piva] Who told you this? If you involve Mariuzzo in this story he could lose his job at Orbita (a Sao Paulo company which manufactures rockets).

[FOLHA] You are not aware of any plans that the Iranians may have to develop rockets?

[Piva] Only from the newspapers.

[FOLHA] Nor are you interested in possibly working in Iran?

[Piva] Well, that is my job. I cannot say I am not interested. That is the only field in which I can serve as an adviser. I have not, however, had any contact with them. I know Iranian officials have visited Brazil and that one of their ministers came here a short while ago. I did not meet him, either.

[FOLHA] What have you been doing these past few months?

[Piva] I have been trying to sell my projects in Brazil and abroad.

[FOLHA] In Brazil? The Brazilian Armed Forces do not have enough money to buy new uniforms for draftees, much less....

[Piva] It is a mistake to buy uniforms. Since we are facing no imminent foreign threat, the proper thing to do would be to release the draftees and invest what little money there is in high-technology projects, because that is the only way to guarantee our position in the future.

Foreign Ministry on Piva Project, Velayati Visit

PY2402020091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Feb 91 Second Section, p 4

[By RL]

[Text] Ambassador Antonio Amaral de Sampaio, chief of the Middle East Department of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry (Itamaraty), said yesterday that he knows

nothing about Brigadier Hugo de Oliveira Piva's deals with the Iranian Ministry of Military Industrialization [name as published].

"All I am aware of are business deals that have to do with the sale of sugar, technology and equipment to produce sugar, and some deals on cellulose. I also know that Brazilian companies are interested in participating in the reconstruction of Iran. If Brigadier Piva plans to advise someone, he does not need authorization from the government," Sampaio said.

He also reported that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has postponed his two-day official visit to Brazil because of the Middle East crisis. Velayati was scheduled to arrive in Brasilia on 2 March, but the trip has been postponed until April. Despite this postponement, the Brazilian Government is still expecting visits by the Iranian ministers of civilian construction, communications, and agriculture.

Two Iranian ministers and three deputy ministers have visited Brazil in the past six months.

Colombia

President Gaviria Prepares for 6-Day U.S. Visit

PA2302194791 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] At this moment President Cesar Gaviria is making preparations for a six-day trip to the United States. Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana assumed the post of minister in charge of the Presidency at Narino Palace.

President Gaviria's trip is important for bilateral relations, and especially important for the definition of joint policies in fighting drug trafficking and the establishment of new trade policies.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] Drug trafficking, judicial cooperation, bilateral economic issues, and foreign trade will be topics of discussion for President Gaviria during his third visit to the country in the north. As part of his economic agenda, the Colombian president will hold talks with his counterpart George Bush on the Andean Initiative, which seeks preferential trade agreements for countries affected by drug trafficking and the establishment of free trade between the two nations as part of the Americas Initiative.

On Monday the president will visit Harlem, one of the areas most affected by drug consumption. Later that day he will sign several bilateral cooperation agreements in Washington. His meeting with President Bush is scheduled for Tuesday when the Colombian president will explain the changes in his anti-drug policy, especially the new decrees that give reduced sentences for drug traffickers who confess their crimes. The government has made the commitment not to extradite them. President Gaviria will conclude his visit in Miami and return to Colombia on Thursday. [end recording]

Gaviria Departs for U.S.

PA2302212691 Paris AFP in Spanish 2016 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Bogota, 23 Feb (AFP)—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria left this afternoon for an official five-day visit to the United States where he will meet his counterpart George Bush and explain his policy on bringing drug traffickers to justice.

This is Gaviria's third trip to the United States since he was elected president; he assumed the presidency on 7 August.

Gaviria will arrive in New York at 1600 (2100 GMT).

A large delegation will be accompanying the Colombian president, including Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo, Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo, Finance Minister Rudof Hommes, Energy and Mines Minister Luis Fernando Vergara, and Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta. [passage omitted]

EEC Increases Economic Aid for Social Programs

PA2302022191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1900 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Bogota, 20 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The EEC has increased its economic aid to Colombia by 48.88 billion pesos ($83 million) to finance social programs that have been affected by the anti-drug struggle.

Jose Luis Benito Prior, EEC ambassador to Latin America, explained that the figure represents the amount that EEC member countries promised to President Cesar Gaviria to support his anti-drug struggle.

"We have total respect for Colombian sovereignty and its anti-drug struggle. We are all responsible for this worldwide problem," he said.

Benito Prior pointed out that the struggle against drug trafficking benefits everyone, and "we have nothing to do with its domestic suppression other than sending money and offering our technological support."

He added that the elimination of tariffs on Colombian exports and the increase in economic aid to promote social programs come as "well-deserved recognition" of a country that has paid a high price for its efforts to eradicate drug trafficking.

* Structure, Tasks of Judicial Police Outlined

91SM0189A Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p 12-a

[Article by Miller Rubio Orjuela]

[Text] With the graduation of the first 36 officers trained for high-level criminal investigation, the police force

yesterday took on the challenge of raising special units to the scientific training level of such organizations as England's Scotland Yard.

The graduating officers—four majors, 14 captains, 12 lieutenants, and six sublieutenants—will be the new commanders of the five Judicial Public Order Police units which will function in the country.

These units will bear the responsibility for providing the foundation for the Colombian prosecution system, since they will be in charge of gathering evidence in the preliminary investigation stage in order to provide the trial prosecutors with what they need. This task has been the reponsibility of judges in the past.

The new investigators, highly trained in intelligence, ballistics, laboratory, preliminary interrogation, and forensic chemical methods, will have the authority to take over public order investigations in the five regional offices in Cali, Barranquilla, Cucuta, Medellin, and Bogota.

Each of these regional offices, which will begin functioning in 15 days, will have a group of these investigative units. They are classified in three categories—Special, Type I, and Type II—based on the volume of court proceedings, the incidence of crime, and other variable factors.

The Special Units will have 206 experts in all, with groups specializing in the work of judicial investigation, intelligence, and private surveillance for the judges. In addition, there will be experts in laboratory work and technical evidence, statistics, criminal files, verbal descriptions, background information, and other types of work which may complement investigatory tasks.

The Type I groups will include 128 investigators, altogether, and the Type II groups will have 96 men.

The units will have a central laboratory available in each region for their use. These laboratories will be able to provide investigators with evidence involving forensic chemistry, bacteriology, toxicology, physics, ballistics, photography, explosives, and documentation.

The targets on which these units will fix their sights are drug trafficking, homicide, personal injuries, illicit enrichment, extortion and kidnapping, terrorism, and private enforcement groups.

To this end, it will be the responsibility of the regional public order offices to pursue all of the investigations required by the court proceedings, in order to present preliminary reports backed by solid evidence which will demonstrate the guilt or innocence of the accused to the judge.

In the course of the investigations carried out by the units, they may accept sworn complaints, carry out searches, inspect crime sites, take impressions, draw sketches, order technical tests, hear testimony, accept written confessions from those involved, if voluntary, and gather evidence and facts which may contribute to advancing the investigation.

The seizures and arrests which may result from the investigations pursued must be reported to the representative of the prosecutor's office and to the judges in charge of these investigations.

All of these procedures will be governed by the legal norms in effect, and each region will bear criminal and disciplinary liability for any excesses committed in the conduct of its operations.

Investigation Versus Crime

The creation of these units falls within the plan set forth in the Statute for the Defense of Justice, and is designed to establish a modern infrastructure for the battle against crime. By means of Resolution No 12293, the police ordered the establishment of the National Judicial Public Order Police Department, which was to create units made up of members of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), the Judicial Police Technical Corps, the SIJIN [Judicial and Investigative Police Section], and the DIJIN [Judicial and Investigative Police Directorate].

The infrastructure includes two fundamental operational bases—the Judicial Police Suboffice, and the Administrative and Intelligence Suboffice.

The Judicial Police Suboffice will be in charge of the various investigation units. It will also control the technical section which will handle: criminal files, judicial proceedings, microfilming, and technical facilities.

The activities of the other suboffice will center on obtaining information. It will have an intelligence section which will organize a network of informers and collaborators for the gathering, recording, evaluation, and analysis of data.

Peru

Health Minister Guarantees Food Exports Safety

PY2402005091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0122 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Lima, 22 Feb (EFE)—Health Minister Carlos Vidal today assured foreign ambassadors accredited to Peru that Peruvian food exports have received international certification guaranteeing that they are free of contamination.

Vidal met the ambassadors in his office to brief them on the current status of the cholera epidemic affecting the country. He also reported the results of an analysis by the Infectious Disease Center in Atlanta. According to these results, Peru's hydrobiological, farm, and canned food products are not contaminated. Vidal requested these tests so governments would lift the bans on Peruvian

food exports that have been in force since 4 February, following the outbreak of the cholera epidemic on 23 January.

A Health Ministry spokesman has reported that some 26,340 people have been infected with cholera and 6,050 have been hospitalized.

Vidal said the sanitary restrictions are unnecessary and that "they only create distrust and uneasiness." He pointed out that cholera is an endemic disease in 98 countries and that exports of food products from these countries are not restricted. He added that the disease is under control in Peru, with the mortality rate at 0.5 percent. He also said the number of cholera cases is decreasing and that epidemic control systems in the environment, drinking water, and food sectors are being reinforced.

On 21 February Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara said that only 5 percent of the fish caught on the shoreline is contaminated with the cholera virus, while the 95 percent of exportable fish caught on the high seas—which is used to produce canned food—is not infected. He announced that the WHO will release a report to confirm that Peruvian food exports are not a risk to spread cholera.

The Agriculture Ministry today sent a note to the EEC giving assurances that Peruvian fruit exports are not contaminated.

According to sources from the export sector, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Venezuela are among the South American countries that have adopted measures against Peruvian food products. The sources added that France and Italy restricted imports of Peruvian fish and shellfish, while the EEC—in which the two countries are members—postponed the possible adoption of joint measures until 15 March.

The United States has not prohibited the import of Peruvian farming and fishing products but has declared a state of "red alert" which entails a strict control process before the products are allowed to enter the country.

Some 30,000 Public Servants Voluntarily Resign

PY2302171491 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Ricardo Martinez, head of the National Institute of Public Administration [INAP] has reported that around 30,000 public servants have voluntarily submitted their resignations.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] This figure quite accurately reflects the cases in Lima and throughout the nation, including the Transport Ministry, the National Agriculture Institute, and the Peruvian Sport Institute. According to Economic Ministry reports, a total of 30,000 public servants have already resigned.

[Unidentified reporter] What was the objective that was outlined?

[Martinez] I have always defended the criterion of not outlining objectives. The government is seeking to debureaucratize the state. The employees have voluntarily resigned. There are no specific objectives or percentages. We can say that a very significant number of employees have submitted their resignations making it possible to carry out the future reorganization proposed by the government. [end recording]

State of Emergency Extended in Eight Departments

PY2302024691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] The Armed Forces will continue to exert internal control in eight departments where the state of emergency has been extended for 60 days. According to a decree published today in the official gazette, the measure affects the following department: Apurimac, Huancavelica, San Martin, Junin, Pasco, Ayacucho—except for Huamanga Province—Huancayo, and Ucayali.

Details of Arrest of Suspected Terrorists Reported

PY2202201091 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 20 Feb 91 p 10

[Text] Only two of the 17 people arrested by the Dircote [Counterterrorism Division] following raids on Shining Path safe houses in Chacarilla del Estanque and Santa Catalina, when four videocassettes were seized, are still being held under arrest on the orders of the 28th Lima Trial Court.

The detainees are Nelly Evans Risco de Alvarez Calderon and Adelaida Natividad Mendez Villegas. The former rented the house in Chacarilla where Abimael Guzman occasionally stayed, and the latter was the owner of the house in Santa Catalina which was used as a terrorist depot. They will both testify in court by the end of the month.

Pediatrician Julio Marcial Vances (48), a specialist in childhood cancer, Ana Maria Orihuela Orrillo (40), and Isolda Morrillo Cabrera (22) were released yesterday morning. According to judicial sources, the report prepared by Dircote included only circumstantial references to the released persons' relationship with Nelly Evans.

Sources close to the prosecutor general's office for terrorist cases have reported, however, that Prosecutor Daniel Espichan Tumay will appeal the resolution.